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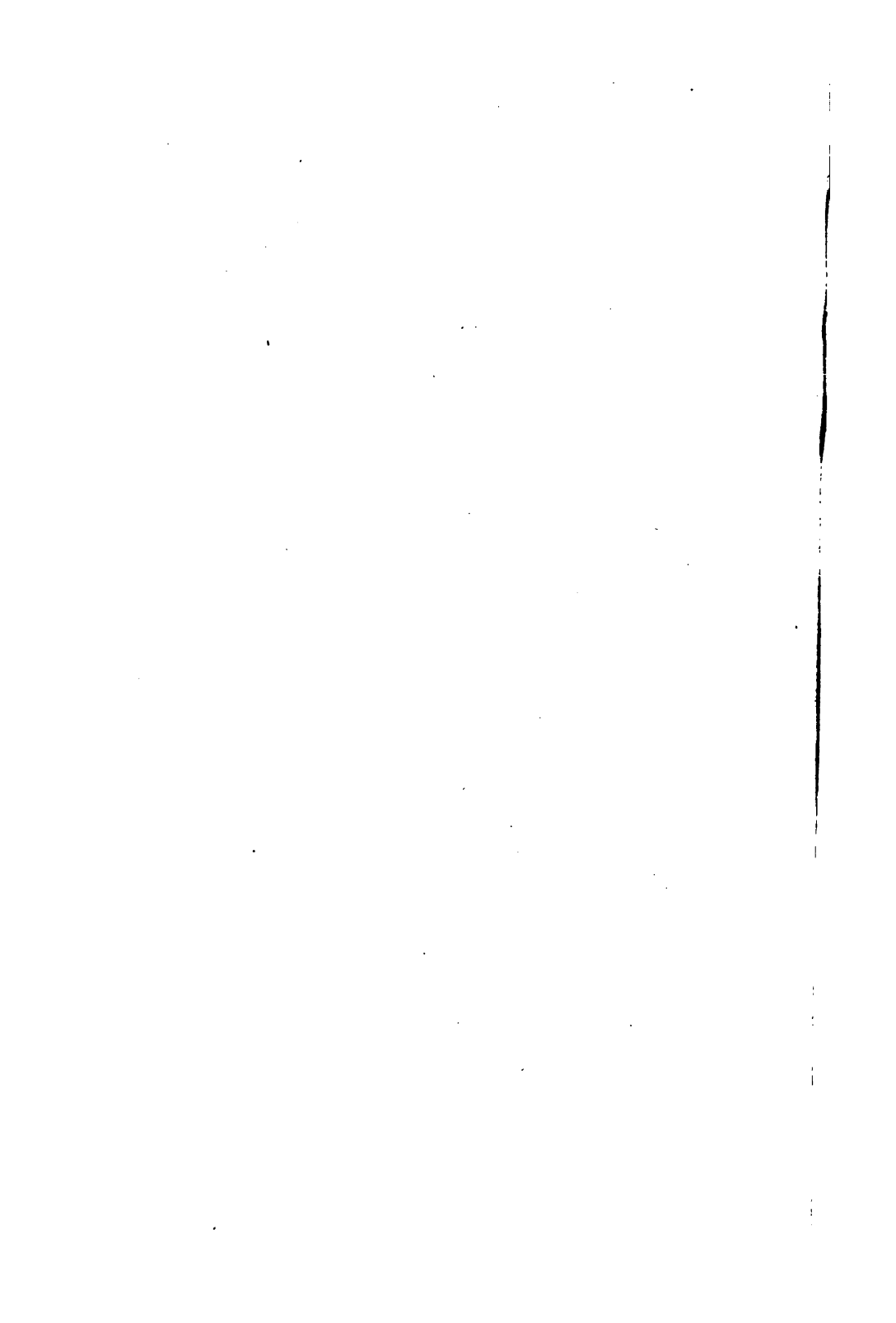
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# HISTORY OF WIMBLEDON.

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THE WINDMILL—WIMBLEDON COMMON, 1865.

J. Richardson. Sunny side  
Kintledon.

THE

May 1865.

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

OF THE PARISH OF

WIMBLEDON,

SURREY.

With Sketches of the Earlier Inhabitants.

BY

WILLIAM A. BARTLETT, M.A.

WADHAM COLLEGE, OXFORD; SENIOR CURATE OF WIMBLEDON.

Nosce Patriam et Mores;  
Nosce Parentes; Nosce Teipsum.

WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO.

WIMBLEDON:

J. & S. RICHARDS.

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"I am sensible there be some who slight and despise this sort of learning, and represent it to be a dry, barren, monkish studie. I leave such to their dear enjoyments of ignorance and ease. But I dare assure any wise and sober man that Historical Antiquities, especially a search into the notices of our own nation, do deserve and will reward the pains of any English student: will make him understand the state of former ages, the constitution of governments, the fundamental reasons of equity and law, the rise and succession of doctrines and opinions, the original of ancient and the composition of modern tongues, the tenures of property, the maxims of policy, the rites of religion, the characters of virtue and vice, and indeed the nature of mankind. I wish the excellent parts of many other writers were not spent upon more frivolous arguments, when by subtleties, and cavils, and quibbles, they serve only to weaken Christianity, and (what otherwise were pardonable) to expose one another."—Preface to KENNETT'S *Parochial Antiquities*.



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## INTRODUCTORY LETTER.

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MY DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW PARISHIONERS,—

As the author of a purely local work must throw himself rather on the kindness of his neighbours than on the cold criticism of the public, it has appeared to me more in accordance with that friendly feeling which has ever been maintained between us, that my few introductory remarks should take the form of a familiar letter to yourselves.

The following pages are the result of some hours of recreation, gathered here and there, from the more arduous and important, though not less pleasant labours, which must necessarily fall to the lot of any one who undertakes a share in the parochial ministrations of a large and increasing suburban parish.

Local History, we may hope, is yearly gaining more students in its train, and people are beginning to view the objects around them with greater interest, and to examine with something more than idle curiosity, the homes and lives of their forefathers.

But I do not forget that this is also a utilitarian, a money-making, a railway-projecting age, which carries with it many who care little to know that the earthwork on Wimbledon Common was the stronghold of Cassivelaunus ; have little reverence for relics of antiquity ; scorn to be shown the homes of Burleigh, of Rockingham, of Grenville, of Wilberforce ; throw down the house of Milton, and build an iron



bridge over Ludgate Hill, to ornament the west front of St. Paul's!!

I would hope and believe, however, that in Wimbledon the organ of reverence is still well developed. Although the great Metropolis is creeping out upon us, I think we are still rural enough to cherish with pleasure our old associations, and to look back with a feeling of pride to those families who lived in our homes through years gone by.

"Stemmata quid faciunt?" \* cries the utilitarian. "Nothing, indeed," we answer, "nothing for those who, being of noble birth, do not live noble lives. Willingly we endorse the after-words of the satirist whom you have quoted,— 'Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus.' " But is not the keen-sighted poet lashing, with his bitter scorn, the men of his own day rather than of the past? and do we not lay ourselves open to the imputation of degeneracy such as Juvenal rebukes, when we refuse to take an interest in the lives of our forefathers, lest the comparison should be sadly against ourselves?

May I not, then, take for granted that in Wimbledon we are striving to live now so as not to be ashamed to look back and see how our forefathers lived before us, and that we desire to know something more of the past history of the place, a desire which this little work strives in some measure to supply.

The chief interest in the history of Wimbledon seems to me to crystallize around two centres: the first purely antiquarian; the second comparatively modern. The one is found in the fine earthwork at the south-west side of the Common; the other in the residences, both of the Lords of the Manor and of others, which for some centuries have been associated with names of men who have played an important part in English history.

On the first of these I have written boldly, but not with-

\* Juvenal, *Satire* VIII. 1, 20.

out consideration. More thought and further observation of the features of the country only tend to strengthen, in my own mind, the theory which I have ventured to put forth.

In treating of the Residents, I have not pretended to measure out to each a due number of pages in proportion to their historical renown ; often, in fact, I have said least of those who have been most famous ; and this I have done purposely, knowing that in books which are on every shelf, much might be found which it would have been superfluous for me to re-write here. On the other hand, where facts could be gathered only from MSS., or from books less frequently found in ordinary libraries, I have not restricted my pen. Thus it is that Rockingham, Fox, Burdett, the Duchess of Marlborough, and others, occupy far less space than Reynolds, De Sandal, or Murimoth, because I felt confident that in the studies of Wimbledon we might find more copies of the histories and biographies by Earl Stanhope or Lord Brougham, than of the *Anglia Sacra*, or of *Adami Murimothensis Chronica*.

One question has frequently occurred to myself whilst writing of these inhabitants, as it will, doubtless, to those who read of them : What was the inducement to settle here ? The easy distance from town, and the fine pure air was doubtless, then as now, a great attraction. But our forefathers did not move so easily or so willingly as we do ; and there must have been something more than a startling advertisement (a wonderful bait in these days of superior wisdom) to bring a Betenson from Kent, or an Osborne from Yorkshire. The temptation, therefore, has been at times to depart from the line beyond which I have seldom dared to step,—that of a simple chronicler, into that of a theorist. May I not, however, just in passing, ask whether the family relationships between Cecil and Betenson, Cecil and Danby, Dundas and Barnard, or the political relationships between Burleigh and Pole, Baynes and Lambert,

Wilberforce and Dundas,—these, and many like these, would not, if examined more carefully, prove to be keys which would help us to unravel the reasons for many apparently arbitrary settlements of our old families ?

I confess to a liberal use of the chief county historians, as Aubrey, Manning, Lysons, and Brayley. At the same time I have endeavoured, wherever it was possible, carefully to verify all their authorities; and thus have been enabled to give much additional matter, which they, from the very nature of their writings, were necessarily obliged to pass over.

I would here beg to express my sincere thanks for the great kindness and courtesy which I have met with on all sides whilst collecting my materials. Especially would I thank His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury for permission to examine the MSS. registers in the Lambeth Library; also His Grace's librarian, the Reverend William Stubbs, whose deep researches in the field of Ecclesiastical history are so well known; the Right Hon. Earl Spencer for permission to examine the records of the Manor, and those gentlemen who are his agents, from whom I have met with the greatest courtesy; the Incumbent and Churchwardens of Wimbledon, for permission to search the parish registers and vestry books, as well as for other information; those gentlemen whom I have met during my inquiries in different Government offices; the Very Reverend the Dean of Chichester, not only for information gathered from his "Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury," but also for some useful practical hints; many of our older inhabitants, from whose folk-lore I have derived much assistance. I would also express my thanks for literary assistance to the Reverend T. Hugo and Charles Warne, Esq., Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries; Dr. R. G. Latham, F.R.S.; T. L. Kington Blair Oliphant, Esq., M.A., of Balliol College, Oxford; as well as to E. B. Penfold, Esq., of Worcester College, and W. T. Dyer, Esq., of Ch. Ch.,

Oxford, who kindly undertook the botanical portion. I would also tender my warmest thanks to our esteemed fellow-parishioner John Murray, Esq., for many kind suggestions during the progress of the work, and for his valuable present of the woodcuts, which, as faithful illustrations of Wimbledon past and present, tend considerably to enhance the value of the work. To the kindness of R. E. Graves, Esq., of the British Museum, I owe the etching on copper of our present parish church; whilst the careful survey of the camp was almost the last work in England of my esteemed friend R. P. Burney, Esq., whose early death in Australia we have since had to lament.

Before I conclude, I know I may claim your indulgence if I step aside for a moment from my subject, and take this opportunity of expressing the deep feeling of thankfulness with which I regard my residence of upwards of four years as a curate in this parish, marked as it has been throughout by the greatest kindness and consideration towards myself from all classes. If this work, by adding a little pleasure to the inhabitants of Wimbledon, can be considered as any return for the courtesy I have received from them, the labour bestowed on its compilation will be more than repaid.

Believe me to remain,

My dear Friends and Fellow Parishioners,

Your faithful Servant,

WILLIAM A. BARTLETT.

1, WATERLOO VILLAS, NEW WIMBLEDON, S.

*March 2, 1865.*

## ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page 2. *The Earthwork*.—Since these sheets have passed through the press, I have been most kindly permitted to read in MS. an interesting paper on our Earthwork, read by W. H. Tregelles, Esq., of the War Office, before the Archaeological Society, and shortly to be published in their journal. It consists of a most careful summary of all the chief authorities who have noticed it at different periods, and reviews the various opinions as to its British, Roman, Saxon, or Danish origin. Though strictly impartial in his summary, I am pleased to fancy that Mr. Tregelles himself somewhat inclines to the British theory, which in the following pages I have endeavoured to maintain. I have to thank him for some variations in the name, in addition to those given in page 2; viz., Wiphandune, Wilbandune, Wilbaldune, Wubbandune. One sentence of his paper I would commend most heartily to all:—"It is earnestly to be hoped that this interesting piece of antiquity may not be destroyed."

Page 35. *Cecil Pedigree*.—Three daughters,—Catherine, Lucy, and Susan, of Sir Thomas Cecil, 1st Earl of Exeter, and Dorothy his wife, omitted.

Also insert:—Frances, daughter of William Bridges, 4th Lord Chandos, and widow of Sir Thomas Smith. She died 1663. She was second wife of Sir T. Cecil, 1st Earl of Exeter, by whom he had Georgianna. (See page 114.)

Page 38. The present Lord Say and Sele is also a representative of Lord Wimbledon, being descended from the Lord Say and Sele who married Frances, 4th daughter of Lord Wimbledon.

Page 43. For *Land Revenue Office*, read *Office of the Woods and Forests*.

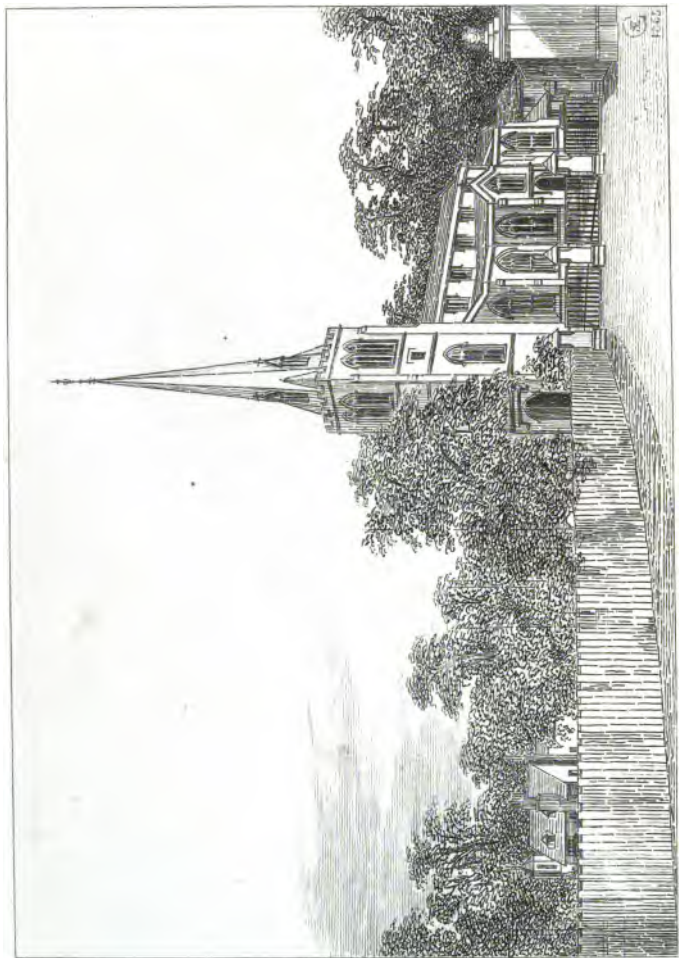
Page 74. *Bells*.—About twenty years ago, Mr. Niblett, of Exeter College, Oxford, visited Wimbledon, and there saw a bell, inscribed, "Orate pro Petro Exoniensi Episcopo—Ricardus de Vymbis me fist." As well as he remembers, it was lying in the churchyard. Thus a fourth bell is accounted for.

Page 111. For *Shiere* read *Shere*.

Page 158. Lucy Aikin, well known in the literary world, niece of Mrs. Barbauld, whose collected works she edited, lived in Gothic House from 1846 till the end of 1851.

Page 172. Although this chapter does not give any account of living specimens of natural history, we might perhaps notice that a rare species of the toad is found on our Common. It is called the Natter-Jack toad (*Bufo calamita*), a species less sluggish than the common toad, more capable of sustaining drought, with eyes more prominent, &c.—*Cf. Bell's British Reptiles*, page 126.





WIMBLEDON CHURCH

*London: Simpkins, Marshall & Co. April, 1865.*

# THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF WIMBLEDON.

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## CHAPTER I.

### EARLY HISTORY.

Situation of Wimbledon. Variations in the Name. The Earthwork. Traces of British Possession. March of Cæsar. Stronghold of Cassivelaunus. Saxon Proprietor. Danish Proprietor. Battle of Wimbledon, A.D. 568. Tumuli. Ridgeway.

**W**IMBLEDON is a parish of great antiquity, in the north of Surrey, on the river Wandle, which forms one of its eastern boundaries, separating it from Mitcham and Wandsworth. The parish of Merton lies on its southern, Kingston on its western, Putney and Wandsworth on its northern side. It is in the western division of the Hundred of Brixton,\* in the Deanery of Barnes and Hammersmith, and the Diocese of London, having been held

\* "Brixton Hundred, styled *Brixistan* in Domesday Book, appears to have derived its appellation from an ancient boundary-mark or terminal stone, called *Brix's* stone, which is mentioned in a charter granted by Edward the Confessor to the canons of Waltham Holy Cross, containing a description of the boundaries of a manor or estate at Lambeth, that belonged to Waltham Abbey before the Norman Conquest. Brixius, or Brice, was doubtless a common name among the Anglo-Saxons; and it may reasonably be supposed that a person so called was formerly a landed proprietor in this part of the county, and erected the stone to which he left his name, as a land-mark."—Brayley's *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. III. 173.



as a Peculiar\* till Jan. 1st, 1846, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, together with the adjacent parishes of Putney and Mortlake.

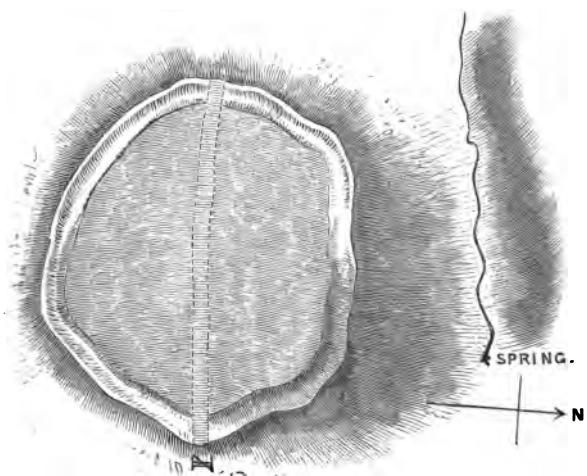
Like most places, its name has been variously spelt at different times, and we accordingly find Wibbandune, Wipandune, Wymbaldon, Wymbeldon, Wymbledon, Wymbylton, Wimendon, Wibleton, Wimbleton, Wimbeldon. The variations, however, have not been so great as in many other names of towns or villages in England. Its true derivation will appear as we proceed with its history.

Its earliest monument is the stronghold which is situated on the south-western side of the Common. This has been ascribed by different authors to British, Roman, Saxon, and Danish hands. Amidst such conflicting opinions it is difficult to decide with accuracy, more especially as the plough has passed over it, and destroyed many of those features upon which a fair conclusion might be built. One point, however, seems decisive. It cannot be Roman. It bears none of the distinctive marks of a Roman fortification. From the three remaining claims, the evidences which may be given in favour of its British origin seem so strong as to merit a passing notice.

Those who visit the spot will observe that it has a double *vallum*, but not an outer *foss*. The outer *vallum* is considerably below the level of the inner, thereby affording an opportunity for a second line of defenders to hurl their javelins or arrows over the heads of the first line. This style of fortification is considered by writers on castrametation to have been the mode adopted by the Britons, who arranged their forces in "concentric circles of ramparts rising one above the other;" as, for instance, in the Herefordshire beacon on the Malvern hills.

It is also probable that this was not merely a fortified camp, but an *oppidum*, or stronghold. In the absence of positive evidence, we may be allowed to borrow something

\* See Appendix I.



PLAN OF THE EARTHWORK, WIMBLEDON.



from language. Now in whatever name we find the vestiges of the British term *Dinas*, *Dunum*, *Din*, softened sometimes into *Down* or *Ton*, there we may venture to trace a British origin.

This *Dunum* meant a hill position ; \* not always (as for instance, where we still use the word *down*) a fortified post, although the word is frequently applied to fortified towns in high positions.

These *dunes* when fortified answered to the *oppida* of Cæsar. They were on elevated spots, often surrounded by woods, and generally near springs of water. Bring these tests to bear upon our camp, and it answers in every respect. The formation of its earthworks, the commanding position which it occupies, overlooking the wide extent of country from the Hampstead and Harrow hills on the north, to the Epsom Downs on the south, the proximity to Combe Wood, the age of which it is scarcely possible to determine ; so that we may almost venture to say of it, in the words of Longfellow,—

“This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the  
hemlocks,  
Bearded with moss, and in garments green, indistinct in the  
twilight,  
Stand like Druids of old, with voices sad and prophetic,  
Stand like harpers hoar, with beards that rest on their bosom ;”—

---

\* Verstegan says, “*Dune*, a hill, commonly that stretcheth or extendeth itself out in length. They call in Holland the sand-banks, which lye upon the sea-side the *Dunes*. The town of *Dun-kirk*, rightly in English *Dun-church*, hath had that appellation by being situate in the *Dunes*, or sand-banks. We yet in some parts of England call hills, *downes*.” Wachter derives it from *dun-en*, to swell, to rise, to be elevated : a most ancient word, he adds, the preservers of which are the *Sawones inferiores* : and that they received the word from their ancestors is manifest from its derivative *dun*, a mountain, a hill, a rising or swelling of the earth (*tumor terræ*). Tooke agrees with Camden that the word is derived from the same original root as the adverb *down*, viz., from *Dufen*, which, in the opinion of the former, is a British word.—Cf. Richardson’s Dictionary, *sub voce* Down.

all these are abiding monuments of its early British origin, whilst the never-failing spring of water, improperly called the *Roman Well*, is found on the slope of the hill but a few hundred paces from the stronghold.\*

And if we are not wrong in considering the Wimbledon earthwork a British fortification, may we not boldly hazard another opinion, and consider it to be THE FORTIFICATION, *the oppidum of Cassivelaunus*. We have before mentioned how fully it answers to the description given by Cæsar.† This, indeed, might be the case with any British stronghold. We must seek, therefore, for yet further proof of the theory which we have adopted, and it is materially assisted by an examination of the writings of Cæsar himself.‡ Cæsar arrived in Britain, August 26th, 55 B.C., and after some losses, returned to Gaul about September 20th in the same year. His second expedition was in the May of the following year. Though meeting with considerable opposition, he fought his way to the banks of the Thames. Here, for the first time, the tribes which occupied this part of the island figured prominently on the scene. The differences which had arisen amongst these tribes were for the moment

\* There is a small spring close to the camp.

† Cæsar *de Bell. Gall.*, lib. v. c. xx. Oppidum autem Britanni vocant, quum silvas impeditas vallo atque fossâ munierunt, quo incursionis hostium vitandæ causâ, convenire consueverunt.

Cf. also Strabo, iv.—Πόλεις Βρετανῶν εἰσιν οἱ ὀρυμοί· περιφράξαντες γὰρ δένδροι καταβεβλημένοις, εὐρυχωρῇ κύκλον, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐν ταῦθα καλυβοποιούνται, καὶ τὰ βόσκηματα κατασταθμείουσιν, οὐ πρὸς πολὺν χρόνον.

‡ I should have broached this theory with more timidity and a greater sense of my own inexperience, were I standing alone in my opinion. But the thoughts which had grown almost to conviction in my own mind, received additional strength when I found that they had already been expressed by the Rev. Thomas Hugo, F.S.A., whose researches in the field of antiquity every student must gratefully acknowledge. He kindly called my attention to a paper written by himself, entitled "Primeval Middlesex" (*Journal of London and Middlesex Arch. Soc.*, No. I.), which was a great assistance to me in writing the following pages.

laid aside, and all parties gathered around Cassivelaunus (as he is usually called), "an original Celt,"\* to wait the approach of the invader. The only ford which the Roman commander could discover as he advanced to attack the forces of the British chieftain, naturally difficult, was rendered still more so by being staked in all directions, both on the banks and in the bed of the river. It was useless, however, to withstand the stern discipline of the Roman legions, and Cassivelaunus withdrew to the *neighbouring woods and fastnesses*, and there watched his opportunity, at the same time sending frequent sallying parties from his stronghold to harass the Romans. Cæsar, therefore, readily accepted the offer of the Trinobantes, the people of Essex, and of the neighbouring parts of Middlesex, who desired to treat with him. Mandubratius, son of Immanuentius, ruler of that district, had visited Cæsar in Gaul. Indignant at the apparent treachery, Cassivelaunus put the father to death, a death which the son escaped only by flight. But on the defeat of Cassivelaunus a request was made to Cæsar by the Trinobantes, that Mandubratius might be restored to his father's throne. The conqueror complied, and the example of the Trinobantes was quickly followed by several of the neighbouring tribes, amongst whom were the "Bibroci," who inhabited our own part of the country. A league was entered into with the Romans, and Cassivelaunus was left with his own followers to resist the forces of the invader. Nay more, the treachery of these tribes revealed to Cæsar the position of the town of Cassivelaunus, which was "*near at hand*, fortified by woods and marshes, and enclosing a great multitude of men and cattle."† The

\* Wright considers him to have been an original Celt, and the princes who favoured Cæsar, Belgic settlers. In favour of this supposition, he mentions that the chiefs who were oppressed by Cassivelaunus fled to the continent for assistance, instead of applying to the native tribes of the interior.—*Celt, Roman, and Teuton*, p. 9.

† Ab his cognoscit, non longe ex loco oppidum Cassivelauni abesse, silvis paludibusque munitum, quo satis magnus hominum pecorisque numerus convenerit.—*De Bell. Gall.*, v. 20.

oppidum was strong, but the well-disciplined legions were stronger, and Cassivelaunus was again defeated by the Romans.

Hitherto we have heard nothing of London, unless the cursorily mentioned "civitas" of the Trinobantes can be so interpreted. Supposing this, however, to mean London, which is just possible, we must look elsewhere for the stronghold of the British chieftain. This stronghold could not have been the friendly "Trinobantium civitas," whatever that was; for Cæsar would scarcely have needed that *its* situation should be revealed to him. Neither could it have been the spot afterwards called Verulamium \* (now St. Alban's), though many writers have decided in its favour, for that place was far too remote from the special scenes of contest between the Romans and the Britons, which were most assuredly confined to the neighbourhood of the Thames. It should be remembered, that it was not till the time of Camden that Verulamium was mentioned as the possible site of the British stronghold. "Indeed," to quote the words of Mr. Hugo, "without going so far as to place the site of primeval London on the south bank of the Thames, a notion to my mind wholly without foundation, I nevertheless regard with the greatest suspicion each modern theory (for an ancient one does not exist), which would localize any of the events of Cæsar's campaign in places north of the immediate vicinity of the river. The oppidum of Cassivelaun is therefore, in my opinion, to be sought for more to the south than to the north, than either Verulamium or the London of any age; and I would hazard what appears to me a far more probable conjecture,† that a

\* Wright is inclined to attribute the foundation of Verulamium to those Britons who, after Cæsar's invasion, were in alliance with Rome, and learned to imitate the civilization of Italy.—*Wanderings of an Antiquary*.

† In consequence of the adaptation of the ground to Rifle Association purposes, the traces of these hut circles are now less distinct than they were.

large collection of hut circles on Wimbledon Common, distinctly visible a short time ago, was the fortified fastness to which the Romans pursued him. The banks of the Thames from above Hampton Court to Battersea Bridge were indubitably the grand scene of the protracted warfare between the Roman legionaries and the heroic Britons. It was at Coway Stakes, above Sunbury, that, according to tradition, which there is no reason either to suspect or reject, the Roman commander crossed the Thames, where he found the bed of the river bristling with stakes.\* Indeed, up to the present period, fresh proofs are being continually brought forward, in the discovery of both British and Roman weapons near the river's banks all along that intervening country. Is it then presumptuous, with all these evidences in its favour, if we claim for the stronghold of Wimbledon, "*silvis paludibusque munitum*," as it still is, with woods stretching up to the high grounds, and marshes in the valley beneath, the title of "*Oppidum Cassivelauni*," the town of Cassivelaunus, the last standing-point of the brave Briton, who still fought for his island home, even when treacherous allies had failed, and all hope of freedom seemed to have fled before the conquering legions of Rome?

But though the stronghold is British in origin, it is not improbable that it was afterwards occupied by Saxons or Danes, who often appropriated, with little alteration, the camps which had been formed by the conquered race.†

\* Camden quotes Bede, *Eccl. Hist.*, i. 2, to prove that the ford was at Coway Stakes. "*Quarum vestigia sudium ibidem usque hodie visuntur, et videtur inspectantibus, quod singulæ eorum ad modum humani femoris grosse, et circumfusæ plumbo, immobiliter erant in profundum fluminis infixæ.*" Those who may desire to read the arguments in favour of that part of the river between Hampton Court and Kingston, are referred to an able paper by the late Dr. Roots, of Kingston, in *The Archaeologia*, vol. xxx. pp. 490—492.

† Stackhouse gives some excellent remarks on camps. Speaking of the British, he says, "I believe that most of them were formed by



But we turn again to etymology to discover the Saxon history of Wimbledon. The Dune or Don still remains as a termination, but the name Wibba, afterwards Wymbald or Wimbald, speaks of a Saxon proprietor.\* We decide, therefore, that the British Dune or fortress has passed into the hands of a Saxon lord, who does not change the earlier title, as was sometimes done, but suffers it to remain.† Although we cannot give the exact date of his possession, we may suppose it to have been about the early part of the sixth century. The second great invasion of the Saxons upon British soil was not decided in their favour till after the capture of the old Roman town of Anderida, or Andrede-ceastre (Pevensey), in 490, by Ella, and the slaughter of the whole British garrison. Ella then extended his dominion over the modern county of Sussex and a great part of Surrey. The Saxon Wibba could not, therefore, have been lord of the place till after that time; and in 568, when the battle was fought between Ceaulin and Ethelbert, we find that it had passed into the hands of a Danish proprietor.‡

That event we must now describe in the words of the

the Britons, subsequently occupied by the Romans and Danes, and even by armies of more recent date; for cannon-balls and pieces of modern armour have been found in or near them. The following observations may assist us in discriminating between British and Roman fortresses: the latter are, I believe, invariably on comparatively low ground, near a river, of a quadrangular figure; on the contrary, the British camps were formed on the tops of hills, and assumed the figure of the hill. It is in the vicinity of these rectangular camps that the urns of baked clay and Roman coins are found. In the hill camps coins very rarely occur, and the urns that are dug up are of unburnt clay."

\* Lysons says, "I have seen ancient records in which the name Wimbaldus occurs."—*Env.*, i. 391.

† The change of Dune into Burgh, Byrig, Barrow, Ceastre; e.g. Sobiodunum into Sarisbyrig or Sear-byrig, "the dry city," applied to Old Sarum.

‡ Osgod.

earlier historians. The Saxon Chronicle says,—“Anno DLXVIII. In this year, Ceawlin and Cutha, Ceawlin's brother, fought against Ethelbert, and drove him into Kent, and slew two aldermen at Wibbandûn (Wimbledon), Oslaf (Oslac) and Cnebba.”—*Translation by Thorpe*, vol. II. p. 16.

Camden says,—“Wibbandune, now commonly called Wimbledon, stands on the other bank of the Wandle, (i. e. from Beddington, which he had been describing,) where, when long prosperity had produced civil wars among the Saxons after their wars with the Britons were ended, Ethelbert, king of Kent, first sounded the alarm against his countrymen; but Ceaulin, king of the East Saxons, fortunately defeated him here with great slaughter, having slain his generals, Oslac and Cneben, from which last, probably, the fortification to be seen here was called Bensbury, for Cnebensbury.”

Richard Gough, in a note on Camden, p. 178, says,—“Dr. Salmon will not allow Bensbury Camp, or, as the common people call it, *The Rounds*, at Wimbledon, to have had the use Camden assigns to it, nor can he satisfy himself of its Romaneity.”\*

Holinshed, in noticing the battle, says,—“This was the first battell that was fought betwixt the Saxons one against another within this land after their first coming into the same.”—*Chronicles*, vol. I. p. 568, ed. 1807.

Ranulp Hyden, quoting Henry of Huntingdon, also says,—“Hic fuit *primum* inter Saxones bellum.”—*Gale, Scriptores*, xv. p. 226.

In “*Scriptores post Bedam*,” p. 834, we read,—“Post quinquennium venit Columba (A.D. 565) famulus Christi a Scotia in Britanniam Pictis adnunciandi verbum Dei: post cujus adventum, jam peracto triennio, Ceaulin et Cutha, civile commoverunt bellum contra Aethelbyrtum: quem et

\* The former observations will have shown that its shape precludes the idea of “its Romaneity.”

superatum persecuti sunt usque in Kent, et ejus duos duces premerunt in Wibbandune, Oslaf et Cnybban." \*

We have said that Wymbaldune had by this time passed into the hands of a Danish proprietor. We get a brief notice, as it was at the time of the wedding of Osgod the Dane, who was lord of the place, that the battle occurred. There are, indeed, evidences from etymological sources of large Danish settlements in this part of the country, and Wymbaldune may well have been one of these.

Several tumuli have been opened at different times on Wimbledon Common, but scarcely any vestige remains of them. Mr. Douglas, in his "*Nænia Britannica*," p. 93, says, that on Wimbledon Common, on the left of the road from London to Kingston, a small distance from Mr. Hartley's fire-house, but on the opposite side of the road, were about twenty-three barrows.† He was told by a farmer of Roehampton, that the largest of them had been opened by a person from London, about twenty-eight years before, 1786 (whom Mr. Douglas guessed to be Dr. Stukeley). The largest did not exceed twenty-eight feet in diameter; all had a circular trench at their base. On the 29th of September, 1786, Mr. Douglas opened one of them, and found a small earthen vessel, of darkish brown-greyish earth, three inches high, three in diameter. No other relics appeared. About five furlongs from this was a very large barrow of a more ancient class. He was told that at a short distance from the town of Wimbledon, on the Common, there was another of this size. Mr. Stackhouse, before quoted, speaking of Wimbledon, notices another barrow, which cannot now be identified,—

"Near an old single-trenched camp at the S.W. corner of Wimbledon Common, is a very small flat barrow, cut into

\* Subsequently, A.D. 666, this part of England was ruled by Wulfere, king of Mercia; and Frithwald, founder of the Benedictine Abbey of Chertsey, was described as his *subregulus* of Surrey.

† Beyond the boundaries of Wimbledon parish, but sufficiently near to be mentioned in this work.

the form of a cross ; I don't know that it has been noticed by any writer." \*

Gale says that a Roman road passed through Wimbledon, being a branch of the great military way leading from the *Vallum* to the *Portus Ritupis*, through Noviomagus (now Woodcote Warren, near Croydon), and described in the second Iter of Antoninus. This road having crossed the Thames at the horse-ferry, Westminster, and proceeded about two miles southward, divided itself into three branches, of which the western passed through Wimbledune to Kingston. He speaks, as a further proof, of Roman coins having been found on Combe Hill, one of which was inscribed **DIVO CONSTANTIO PIO**. This road would probably be the Ridge-Way, so called because it takes its course along a ridge or elevated land (Ang.-Sax. *Hricg, dorsum*). Many instances are found in different parts of England. Thus the Ridgeway in Warwickshire, which begins two miles west of Alcester, runs along some high land parallel with the Hayden Way, past the *Arbours*, to Red Ditch for seven miles. Also Ridgway, two miles S. W. of Powick ; Rudge Wood, near Broseley ; Rudge Heath, on the borders of Shropshire and Staffordshire. Rudgeway joins the Fosse in Leicestershire, N.E. of Barkby. The Ridgeway road from Pembroke to Tenby ; with many others. †

The dim, but we hope not uninteresting light, which we have thus endeavoured, partly from theory and partly from tradition, to throw over the early history of Wimbledon, fades altogether for a time. When next we meet it, we shall be on the beaten track of more authentic history, guided by written records. We propose, nevertheless, to hazard some further opinions on ancient Wimbledon, in the chapter on its physical features.

\* *Lectures on Early Remains in Britain*, p. 49 (privately printed).

† Hartshorne's *Salopia Antiqua*, p. 275.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE MANOR.

Archbishop of Canterbury Lord of the Manor. Seized by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. Domesday Book. Manor of Mortlake or Wimbledon comprised Wimbledon, Putney, Mortlake, East Sheen. Archbishop Reynolds. Archbishop Arundel. Forfeiture of his estates, 1398. Short Sketch of Mortlake. The Manor House. Occasional Residence of the Archbishops. Of the Kings. The Church situated at Wimbledon. Chapel built at Mortlake, 1348. Short Sketch of Putney. Of Barnes. Subordination of Barnes to Wimbledon. Lease of Wimbledon Heath to the Prior of Merton, 1365. Dispute with St. Thomas's Hospital. Manor of Burstow Park included in the Manor of Wimbledon. Its alienation. Archbishop Cranmer exchanges the Manor of Wimbledon with Henry VIII. for other lands.

FIVE centuries pass away ere Wimbledon again appears upon the field of history. It has now become a manor in the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury. "Manors," says Blackstone,\* "are in substance as ancient as the Saxon constitution, though perhaps differing a little, in some immaterial circumstances, from those that exist at this day. A manor, *manerium*, à *manendo*, because the usual residence of the owner, seems to have been a district of ground, held by lords or great personages, who kept in their own hands so much land as was necessary for the use of their families, which were called *terræ dominicales* or *demesne* lands, being occupied by the lord or *dominus manerii*, and his servants. The other, or *tenemental* lands, they distributed among their tenants." The manor of Wymbledon, or as it is generally named Mortelage, or Mortlake, was one of the many estates belonging to the see of Canterbury,

\* *Commentaries*, bk. II. ch. 6.

which were seized by *Odo, Bishop of Bayeux*, half-brother of William the Conqueror. Talented, shrewd, and energetic, this man would doubtless have been advanced to the see of Canterbury instead of Lanfranc, had he not been spoiled by fortune. But his rapacious character soon developed itself when once he had tasted the sweets of wealth and power. A comparison between the accounts given of him before and after the Norman invasion will sufficiently illustrate this: "*Odo, Bishop of Bayeux*," says the chronicler of the former period, "was the kind of person who could, better than any one, understand both ecclesiastical and secular business. Of his goodness and prudence the church of Bayeux, in the first place, gives testimony; which he with great wisdom did settle and advance. And though he was in years but young, yet did he excel the age in gravity. To all Normandy he was of great use and ornament, his prudence and eloquence manifesting themselves, not only in synods, wherein the worship of God was handled, but in all other disputes touching worldly affairs. For liberality there was none like him in all the realm of France; nor was he less praiseworthy for his love of equity. He was no instigator to war, nor could he be drawn thereto, and therefore much feared by soldiers. But, upon great necessity, his counsels in military affairs were of special avail, so far as might consist with the safety of religion. To the king, whose brother he was by the mother, his affections were so great that he could not be severed from him, no not in the camp."\* He was liberally rewarded by William. He already held the earldom of Eu, with the bishopric of Bayeux. After the Conquest he was created Earl of Kent, and enriched by the grant of 184 lordships in that county, and 250 in other parts of England. He was appointed joint justiciary with William FitzOsbern, ruling in the southern portion of the kingdom; and during

\* *Gesta Will. Ducis Norm.*, p. 209 a, quoted from Dugdale by Dean Hook, *Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury*, vol. II. 112.

his brother's absence he was appointed regent of the kingdom, or "vice-dominus." But his ambition and rapacity soon became apparent, and the description given of him by the Conqueror on his death-bed is in sad contrast to the words of the earlier chronicler:—"My brother Odo is not a man to be trusted; ambitious, given to fleshly desires, and of enormous cruelty. I satisfied myself of this on several occasions, and, therefore, I imprisoned not the bishop, but the tyrannical earl. There is no doubt that if he is released he will disturb the whole country and be the ruin of thousands. I say this not from hatred, as if I were his enemy, but as the father of my country, watching for the welfare of a Christian people. It would, indeed, give me inexpressible and heartfelt joy to think that he would conduct himself with chastity and moderation, as it always becomes a priest and minister of God."\*

The imprisonment of Odo, mentioned in the preceding paragraph, requires explanation. Upon William's return to England after his first visit to the Continent, he found the Anglo-Saxon spirit stirred to its very depths by the rapacities of Odo. Valuables of all kinds, whether plate or documents, were deposited by the Saxons in their cathedrals—sanctuaries which they thought would be held sacred even by Norman invaders. But the conquering baron, when he had gained possession of the papers belonging to a monastery or a cathedral, would be little likely to deal gently with the charters which proved a title to the lands seized by himself. Thus it was that large tracts of ecclesiastical property fell into lay hands. One of the first acts of Lanfranc after his elevation to the archbishopric of Canterbury was to induce the king to issue a mandate restoring to all bishops and abbots the property of which they had been thus ruthlessly spoiled. That the king was willing to take the side of justice is shown in the permission which he granted Lanfranc to take proceedings

\* Ordericus Vitalis, lib. vii. c. 16.

against his own brother Odo, the second person in the realm. This case, the first recorded lawsuit after the Conquest, was tried at a shire-mote on Penenden Heath (5 Wm. I., 1071).\* The cause of the ecclesiastics triumphed: the church lands were restored, and Wymbledon again fell to the see of Canterbury.

Although a warrior in the battle of Hastings, Odo is depicted on the Bayeux tapestry cased in armour, but without a sword. He bears a staff only, with this superscription:—"Hic Odo Eps. baculum tenens confortat." †

In 1085, the nineteenth year of William the Conqueror's reign, Canute, or Knut, the successor of Sweyn on the throne of Denmark, collected a large fleet with a view to the invasion of England. Although the design was abandoned, yet it occasioned several changes in the constitution of this country. The grievous tax of Danegelt was again imposed; and because the Saxon military system had been laid aside, and no other had as yet been substituted in its place, the king was obliged to invite over a large army of Normans and Bretons to guard the defenceless kingdom. These were quartered on the landholders. The coast-line was devastated in order to deprive the enemy of support on his landing. Grievances, these, sufficient to induce the nobility to co-operate with the king in a plan for putting the kingdom in a posture of defence. The king was accordingly met, late in the next year, by all his nobility at Salisbury, when the latter consented to hold their lands by military tenure under the monarch, become his vassals, and do homage and fealty to his person. The great survey which bears the name of "Domesday Book" ‡ was then agreed to, and England was governed upon the feudal system.

\* For the original report, see Wilkin's *Concil.*, i. 323, quoted by Dr. Hook, *Lives*, II. 127.

† Hook, II. 113.

‡ Appendix II.



In this Domesday Book, Wimbledon is not mentioned. But most writers have considered, and upon fair circumstantial evidence, that at this time it was included, as it certainly was at a later period, in the great manor of Mortlake, then held by the Archbishops of Canterbury. The following is an extract from the Survey :—

“Domesday, Tab. II.

“The Archbishop holds in demesne Mortelage. In the time of King Edward it was rated for fourscore hides [8,000 acres]. The Canons of St. Paul hold of these 8 hides [800 acres] which were and are taxed with these. They are now taxed together for 25 hides. The arable land consists of 35 carrucates. In demesne there are 5 carrucates and four score Villans and 14 Bordars with 28 carrucates. There is a church and 16 Villans in gross, and two mills of the value of 100s. [£300] and 20 acres of meadow. The wood yields 55 fat hogs.”

“In London there were 17 houses paying 52 pence [£13. 10s.]; in Southwerk 4 houses paying 27 pence [£7. 15s.], and from the vill of Putelei 20 shillings of toll, and one fishery not taxed. This fishery Earl Harold had in Mortlage in the time of King Edward; and Stigand, the Archbishop, had it long before the time of King William; and yet they say that Harold erected it by force in the time of King Edward, in the land of Kingston, and in the land of St. Paul. The whole manor in the time of King Edward was worth £32 [£1,920], and afterwards £10 [£600], now £38 [£2,280].”\*

Here we have sufficient proof, in the allusion to Archbishop Stigand, that the manor had been held by the see of Canterbury before the Norman Conquest, and probably during the time of Edward the Confessor.

The size of the manor as described in Domesday; viz., 80 hides, might easily have included Wimbledon, East Sheen, and Putney, as well as Mortlake. We find, indeed, about two centuries and a half later, in a record made during the time of Archbishop Reynolds, 1327, and preserved in the Lambeth Library, that Wimbledon is described

\* The figures in brackets are from Manning's *History of Surrey*.

as a grange, or farm, belonging to Mortlake.\* A few years before this, in 13 Edward II., 1320, we find the same archbishop called on to pay twenty shillings for half a knight's fee in Wimbledon on the marriage of the king's eldest daughter.

But as we draw towards the close of this century the notice which is given us of Wimbledon seems at first to imply a different tenure. Thomas Arundel, who was created archbishop in 1396, had been one of the thirteen commissioners under King Richard II., in 1386, for investigating the administration of public affairs. But in 1398 the Commons, with the consent of the king, impeached the archbishop, together with his brother, the Earl of Arundel, and the Duke of Gloucester. The estates of the archbishop, including Wimbledon, were then seized, though the forfeiture was dated from the tenth year of the king's reign, because a general pardon had been granted in that year, which by this Parliament was revoked. In the inquisition then taken, the manor of Wimbledon is mentioned "as a member of the manor of Croydon (also belonging to the see of Canterbury), consisting of a house and buildings, containing two acres, worth nothing beyond reprises; 100 acres of arable land at 3d.=£1. 5s.; 21 of meadow at 6d.=10s. 6d.; 4 of several pasture, 2d.=8d.; assised rents of free tenants, 4s.; divers works done for 48 virgates of land at 3s.=£7. 4s.; and two hundred courts† worth per annum, with the common fine, £1. 13s. 4d.; in all, £10. 17s. 6d." But this has been explained by Manning, who says, "This account could not mean the manor of Wimbledon as now comprehending Mortlake and Putney, to which belong rents and services to a much greater amount. In fact, there were two capital houses belonging to the manor of Mortlake; one, with a park, at Mortlake, the other at

\* *Regist. Reynold.*, fol. 79 b.

† Manning asks "whether these were not the Hundred Courts of Croydon, where the archbishop had return of the king's writs?"

Wimbledon. The former was frequently the residence of the archbishops, and occasionally that of the king in a vacancy of the see. The latter was rather a grange, or farm. When, therefore, this is called in the inquisition the manor of Wimbledon, nothing more was meant than a mansion, with part of the demesne lands (as has been found in many instances), to which, in this case, certain services of the tenants due to the manor properly so called were attached, as well for the convenience of the tenants who resided in that part of the manor, as of the lord, the owner of this house and land." \*

Pope Boniface IX. welcomed the exile to the court of Rome, and endeavoured, though unsuccessfully, to effect his reconciliation with the king. But upon the landing of Henry of Lancaster to claim the English crown, in 1399, Archbishop Arundel, together with his nephew, the youthful earl, were found in his train, and the forfeited estates were, upon the accession of Lancaster to the throne, immediately restored.

The general conclusion, therefore, at which we may arrive seems to be this: That the manor of Mortlake, or Mortelage, described in Domesday, included the parishes of Mortlake, Wimbledon, Putney,† and probably East Sheen.‡ That during the tenure of the archbishops this manor sometimes went by the name of Mortlake, and sometimes by that of Wimbledon. A brief passing description of Mortlake, therefore, may not at this point be out of place.

Mortlake has been generally derived from *Mortuus lacus*,

\* Manning, vol. III. 267.

† Putney belonged to Wimbledon when Queen Elizabeth granted the manor to Sir Thomas Cecil.

‡ East Sheen was not enfranchised from Wimbledon till the reign of Henry VII., at which time it was the property of the Welbecks; it had previously been the estate of the Dyneleys.—Lysons, *Env.*, I. 267.

*the dead lake.* Leland, in his Itinerary (*Cyanea Cantio*), says :—

“ Dehinc et Mortuus est lacus superba  
Villai effigies, domusque nota;  
Cygnorum insula promicat benigna  
Nostri quæ generis fovet volucres.”

The name Mortelage, given in Domesday, signifies, in the Saxon language, “a compulsive law,” a derivation which will scarcely help us. The manor-house was undoubtedly situated here as long as the manor itself was held by the see of Canterbury. From this house many of the public acts of the archbishops were dated, and here some of them died. Archbishop Anselm celebrated the feast of Whitsuntide here in 1099.\* He held an ordination in this place in the time of Henry I.† Archbishop Corboyle was confined to his house by sickness in 1136.‡ Archbishop Peckham died here in 1292,§ and Archbishop Reynolds in 1327.||

Archbishop Mepham having fallen under the displeasure of the Pope, was excommunicated by him, and, retiring to Mortlake, spent many days here in solitude.¶ Nicholas Bubwith was consecrated in the chapel of the manor-house at Mortlake by Archbishop Arundel, and the Bishops of Winchester and Worcester, in 1406.\*\* Archbishop Warham appears to be the last primate who resided here.†† His successor, Cranmer, alienated the manor of Mortlake to Henry VIII., in exchange for other lands. The manor-house, which was standing in 1547, was probably pulled down soon afterwards, and the manorial residence removed to Wimbledon. The site of Mortlake House was alienated by Sir Thomas Cecil to Robert Walter, 36 Elizabeth. Not

\* Eadmer, Selden's note, p. 33.

† Idem, p. 196.

‡ *Decem Script.*, col. 1664.

§ Godwin, *de Præsulibus*.

|| *Angl. Sacra*, i. p. 117, and 368.

¶ Idem, 370.

\*\* *Regist. Arundel, Lambeth*, Pt. i. 33 b.

†† Only one act of his is dated from this place.—*Register Warham, Lambeth*, 334 a.

a trace of it remained in the time of Lysons, except the foundation of a wall, forming the boundary towards the river.

Mortlake House was also the occasional residence of our English monarchs. It was not an unusual circumstance, in the earlier period of our history, for the king to omit during several years to fill up a see which had become vacant by the decease of a former prelate, in the mean time appropriating the temporalities to himself. Thus, after the death of Archbishop Edmund Rich, Henry III. kept the see of Canterbury vacant for three years, retaining the revenues in his own hands. During his residence in the manor-house (1240), a huge fish found its way up the river as far as Mortlake, and was killed opposite the king's residence. The old chronicler Holinshed evidently regarded this as an important omen ; for, when speaking of a comet which appeared in February of the same year, and remained visible for thirty days, "a blazing starre verie dreadful to behold ;" speaking also of a violent wind that blew, he lays the greatest stress upon the appearance of the fish. "Moreover, on the coast of England there was a great battell amongst the fishes of the sea, so that there were eleaven whales or thirlepooles cast on land, beside other huge and monstrous fishes, which appeared to be dead of some hurts ; and one of those mightie fishes coming into the Thames alive, was pursued by the fishers, and could scarce pass through the arches of London Bridge. At length, with darts and other such weapons, they slue him before the king's manour, at Mortlake, whither they followed him."

King Edward III. also fixed his residence at Mortlake in 1352. It is not improbable that Henry VIII. resided here after the exchange, as in 1543 he removed the church or chapel which stood near the house.\*

But although the mansion was at Mortlake, the church was undoubtedly at Wimbledon. It appears singular that

\* Manning, III. 306.

the residence of the lord of the manor should be at one end of his estate, and the church at the other. But it should be remembered that for ecclesiastical purposes the archbishops had their private chapel attached to the manor-house; their usual residence, moreover, when in the neighbourhood of London, being at Lambeth or Lamhith, which was annexed to the see in 1197. Certainly no parish church existed at Mortlake for nearly three centuries after the Conquest, for it was not till 1348, in the time of Archbishop John Stratford, that a license was given by King Edward III., "to the Archbishop of Canterbury, to give a piece of ground in Berecroft, nine perches square, to Adomar, parson of Wimbledon, and his successors, to find a chaplain who should perform divine service in a chapel about to be erected on that spot, for the ease of the bodies and the health of the souls of the inhabitants of Mortlake and East Sheen, who were far distant from the parish church of Wimbledon."\*

This seems undoubtedly to prove that the church mentioned in Domesday, as belonging to Mortlake, must have been that at Wimbledon, which we have assumed to have been at that time included in the manor. The only part of the church built at Mortlake in 1348, which remained in Lysons' time, was the outer door of the belfry, and a stone fixed in the wall of the west end, with this inscription:—

"Johes Joce ejus aīe procietur dē."

Joce having probably been a contributor to the original building.

Neither could Putney lay claim to the church mentioned in Domesday. In that survey the parish is called *Putelei*; in subsequent records, till the sixteenth century, it is spelt *Puttenheth*, or *Pottenheth*. The church was built first of all as a chapel-of-ease to Wimbledon, some time after the Conquest, though the exact date is uncertain. A public ordination was held there by Archbishop Winchelsey in 1302.

\* Ducarel's *Index to Lambeth Registers*, Courtney, i. 539.

The ferry at Putney has been mentioned in an extract from Domesday Book, as yielding a toll of 20s. per annum to the lord of the manor. Putney appears to have been at all times a place of considerable thoroughfare: it was usual formerly for persons travelling from London to many parts of the west of England, to proceed as far as Putney by water. In the household expenses of Edward I. are some entries of money paid to the ferrymen here for conveying the king and the royal family to Fulham and to Westminster. At a court held for the manor of Wimbledon (42 Eliz.), it was ordered that, if any waterman should omit to pay a halfpenny for every stranger, and a farthing for every inhabitant of Putney, to the owner of the ferry, he should forfeit to the lord 2s. 6d. In 1629 the lord of the manor received 15s. per annum for the ferry. In the year 1656, General Lambert, then lord of the manor, granted a small piece of ground, near the waterside, to the Company of Free Watermen of Putney, for the purpose of erecting a shed.

When the wooden bridge was erected, in 1729, the proprietors purchased the ferry, which on an average produced the owners £400 per annum, for the sum of £8,000. The Duchess of Marlborough received £364. 10s. for her interest in the ferry, as lady of the manor of Wimbledon; and the Bishop of London £23, for the same interest in the Fulham side; besides which, he reserved to himself and his household, and to his successors, the right of passing the bridge toll-free.

We have also seen from Domesday Book, that the lord of the manor enjoyed a fishery here at the time of the Conquest, before which time it had been established at Mortlake, by Earl Harold. At a court held 13 Hen. VI., the lord was found to be seised of all fish within the manor. In 1663 the fishery was let for an annual rent of the three best salmon that should be caught in the months of March, April, and May. This rent appears to have been changed afterwards to money. When

Sir Theodore Janssen's estates were sold, the fishery was let for £6 per annum. The rent was afterwards increased to £8: a lease upon those terms expired in 1780.\*

It may not, perhaps, be wholly irrelevant to say a few words about Barnes here. The manor of Barnes, or Barn-Elms, called in the Domesday survey Berne, the Saxon for barn, although a distinct manor, was associated so much at certain times with the manor of Wimbledon, as to demand a passing notice, even when treating of the latter. This manor was given by King Athelstan to the Canons of St. Paul. It was valued in the time of Edward the Confessor at £6—in the Conqueror's time at £7. But what makes it chiefly noticeable here, is the survey made in 1245, which states, that "the manor of Barnes was taxed in the time of King Henry, and William the Dean, at four hides, as it now is, and they were quit in the time of King Henry by the acquittance of the archbishop, and still are quit, and *they are taxed with the archbishop's tenants of his manor of Wimbledon*; and they say that in the time of war they paid the sheriff 5s. 4d., and rendered to the bailiffs of the hundred two horse-loads of pulse and one of barley. This manor now yields to the canons three full rents. Of the said four hides, two were, and still are, assized, and two in demesne; and there are in demesne 344 acres of arable land, of meadow alone 40 in breadth; and in a coppice of thorns about 10. There is pasture for 60 sheep and 16 cows. There are two ploughs on the demesne lands, which lands are free from all services, and there is a mill which pays a rent of 16s. The whole is valued at 67s. 10d."†

The subordination of Barnes to Wimbledon is further proved by the fact that "the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's formerly paid a sparrow-hawk yearly, or in lieu

\* Lysons, i. 311.

† Book of Surveys in the Chapter-house of St. Paul's, marked L, quoted by Lysons, i. 7.



thereof, two shillings, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, as lord of the manor of Wimbledon, to be exempted from serving the office of reeve or provost within that manor.\*

About the year 1250, some doubts having arisen relating to the right of presentation to the church of Barnes, which was said to be a chapel to Wimbledon, and in the gift of the rector of that parish, Archbishop Boniface directed his writ to inquire into the matter, soon after which the archbishop instituted Richard de St. Alban's, on the presentation of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's.† A survey of the church, however, made in 1249, shows some ecclesiastical obedience of Barnes to Wimbledon; for it says, "The priest collects the Peter's pence, and whatever he collects he pays at Wimendon (Wimbledon).‡

And not only were Mortlake, Barnes, and Putney united by so many ties to Wimbledon, during the period before the Reformation; but we discover that the Prior of Merton also had at one time a tenure in this parish.§ In 1365, 38 Edward III., "the demesne lands of the manor of Wimbledon, and pasture for 300 sheep on the heath in that lordship, were demised to the Prior of Merton by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for a certain term of years, at an annual rent of £10."

The Priory also held twenty acres of arable land in Wimbledon, called *Blackland*, lying in one culture,|| on the

\* Pat. Rolls, 10 Hen. IV., p. i. m. 19.

† Cart. Ant. among the archives of St. Paul's, No. 1426, quoted by Lysons.

‡ Lib. L. fol. 82 b.

§ It is distinctly termed a *parish* in a survey made in the 20th year of Edward I.

|| "Pars latior agri, uni designata cultui." So Spelman, in Gloss.; from which it would seem to have been the same with *Plough-land*, but that the quantity (20 acres) is too small. This may be supposed therefore to mean a parcel of land, whether more or less, in the occupation of one person: a small farm.—Manning, i. 247. I have been unable to identify the piece of ground, but conclude it to be a portion

west side of the road leading from the Priory at Merton to Dunesford, in Wandsworth, concerning which a dispute having arisen between John, prior of Merton, and the convent, on one part, and William Crosse, master, and the brethren of St. Thomas's Hospital, on the other, it was submitted to the arbitration of Richard Bingham, one of the justices of Common Pleas, under the penalty of 100 marcs each, to abide by the same. The said Richard, on Monday next before the Feast of Ascension, in 36 Hen. VI., 1458, adjudged that the said master and brethren should, under their common seal, release and quit claim to the said prior and convent and their successors for ever, all their right and title to the said twenty acres, and their appurtenances, before the Feast of Pentecost next ensuing.\*

The manor of Wimbledon, in early times, comprised also that of Burstow, or Burstow Park. When or by whom it was annexed we cannot determine, though I have discovered it very early in the Lambeth Registers; and if we seek for further proof in a period somewhat later than that which we have reached in this history, we find that in 22 Hen. VIII., 1531, "William (Warham), then Archbishop of Canterbury, demised Burstow Park to Sir John Gage (then the owner of Burstow Court Lodge) for eighty years." Whether the archbishop afterwards granted it to the king, or directly to Thomas Cromwell, we do not know; but Cromwell had the manor of Wimbledon, and Burstow Park as an appendage to it; and on his attainder it was seized by the king, and remained in the Crown till 32 Eliz., when the queen granted to Sir Thomas Cecil the manor of Wimbledon, with its members in the county of Surrey, and rents of free tenants; viz., amongst others, "for lands or

of the farm in the possession of G. Bridge, Esq., on the west side of the road, now leading from Merton to that portion of Wandsworth which still retains the name of Dunesford, in Dunsford Villas.

\* Muniments of St. Thomas's Hospital. See Chap. XI. for a further history of this portion of land.

tenements in Bristowe, *alias* Burstowe, £6. 17s. 4d.; and all those our lands in Bristowe, *alias* Burstowe, parcel of the same lordship of Wimbleton, called the *Parke*, demised to Sir John Gage, Knt., by indenture under the seal of William, late Archbishop of Canterbury, dated March 11th, 22 Hen. VIII. (1531), for eighty years, rent £11, all late parcel of the possessions of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, after of Thomas Cromwell, Knt., late Earl of Essex, attainted of high treason."\* In November following, Cecil conveyed it to Sir Thomas Shirley the elder, of Wiston, in Sussex, from whose time it passed altogether away from Wimbleton.

Wimbleton ceased to belong to the Archbishops of Canterbury in right of their office during the reign of Henry VIII., although it became the property of Archbishop Cardinal Pole, by the special grant of Queen Mary, somewhat later. Cranmer, whether willingly or under compulsion, exchanged the manor of Wimbleton with Henry VIII. for other lands. Compare the course adopted by Henry with reference to other church lands, and it looks very like compulsion. Whatever may be the opinion about the dissolution of the monasteries, it would not be easy to defend the principle upon which their lands were held as escheats or vacant possession, devolving on the sovereign, or to uphold the lay impropriations of parochial tithes. When we find, therefore, that not only Wimbleton, but Croydon also, was exchanged, and when the names received for these manors are not recorded, we may not unfairly suppose that the exchange was decidedly in favour of the sovereign, more especially if the productive manor of Wimbleton became the booty of a royal favourite. We may decide this, too, the more unreservedly when we find that a writer of deep research and calm judgment, but with no strong bias in favour of the Church, the sagacious Hallam, grounding his

\* Pat. Rolls, 32 Eliz., p. 16; Manning, II. 281. Mortlake or Putney Park is excepted out of this grant.

conclusion, moreover, not merely on such writers as Strype and Collier, but also on the latitudinarian Burnet, is constrained to acknowledge that "almost every bishopric was spoiled by the ravenous power of the courtiers in this reign, either through mere alienations, or long leases, or *unequal exchanges*. Exeter and Llandaff, from being among the richest sees, fell into the class of the poorest. Lichfield lost the chief part of its lands to raise an estate for Lord Paget. London, Winchester, and *even Canterbury suffered considerably*."\*

\* Hallam, *Constitutional History*, i. 94.

## CHAPTER III.

THE MANOR (*continued*).

Wimbledon the property of the Crown. Given to Cromwell, Earl of Essex. Sketch of his life. Of Catherine Parr. Grant to Cardinal Pole. Elizabeth gives the Manor-house to Sir Christopher Hatton. Lord Burleigh's residence in Wimbledon. Sir Thomas Cecil, son of Lord Burleigh, purchases the Manor-house of Hatton; obtains the Manor from the Queen by exchange afterwards. Sir Edward Cecil, Lord Wimbledon. His life. Lord Herbert's anecdotes of him. Royal visits to Wimbledon. Queen Elizabeth. James I. Ambassadors from the States. Residence of Charles I. and Henrietta Maria at Wimbledon. Manor seized by Parliamentary Commissioners. Adam Baynes. General Lambert. His life. The Restoration. George Digby, Earl of Bristol. Remarks of him (by Pepys) whilst at Wimbledon. John Evelyn's visit to Wimbledon. Thomas Osborne, Duke of Leeds. His life. His family. Sir Theodore Janssen. His failure. Duchess of Marlborough. Spencer family. General Remarks on the Manor.

THE favourite courtier who now (probably in 1539) obtained the manor of Wimbledon at the hands of his sovereign was Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex. His career was remarkable both in its rise and fall. It was a strange coincidence that in middle life he should have been lord of the manor upon which his father had carried on the trade of a blacksmith at the time of his birth. The site of his birthplace, as pointed out by tradition, agrees with a survey of the manor taken in 1617, which describes upon the same spot "an ancient cottage called the Smith's Shop, lying west of the highway leading from *Putney* to the Upper Gate, and on the south side of the highway from *Richmond* to *Wandsworth*, being the sign of the Anchor." Cromwell's

early manhood was spent in travel. It is said that Cardinal Wolsey, who proved his great patron, first discovered him in France; and having remarked his high qualifications, made him his secretary. He was not destitute of gratitude, for, when the star of Wolsey was on the wane, Cromwell defended his master with spirit and energy. Nor did his own fortune on that account suffer; for, upon the recommendation of Sir Christopher Hales, afterwards Master of the Rolls, and Sir John Russell, whose escape from the hands of the French had been effected at Bologna by the assistance of Cromwell some years before, he was introduced to the king as the fittest person to manage the dispute between his Majesty and the Pope. This led to a series of honours, till we find him appointed, on the 18th of July, 1536, Vicar-General, and Vicegerent over the Spiritualities of England, under the king, who was declared supreme head of the Church. In virtue of this office he presided at a synod held in 1537, taking his place above the bishops. In the same year he was created Baron of *Okeham*, in Rutlandshire, obtaining afterwards a grant of the castle and manor. On the 17th of April, 1539, he was promoted to the dignity of Earl of Essex, and created Lord High Chamberlain of England, and within a very short time he was loaded with many of those noble manors and estates, of which, mainly by his instigation, the Church of England had been robbed. But the tide soon turned. Hated by the nobility for his low birth and haughty bearing; by the Romanists for his share in the dissolution of the monasteries; by the people for his heavy taxations; and by Henry himself for his advice in the arrangement of the marriage with Anne of Cleves, this child of fortune fell more suddenly than he had risen. He was arrested for high treason on the 10th of June, 1540; a bill of attainder was quickly passed through Parliament, and on the 28th of July he was beheaded on Tower Hill. His estates were all confiscated, and Wimbledon once more became the property of the Crown. Fuller, after weighing impartially the merits

and demerits of Cromwell, concludes with this remarkable instance of his humility :—"Formerly there flourished a notable family of the Cromwells at Tattershall, in Lincolnshire, especially since Sir Ralph Cromwell married the younger sister and co-heir of William, the last Lord Deincourt. Now, there wanted not some flattering heralds (excellent chemists in pedigrees to extract anything from anything), who would have entitled this Lord Cromwell to the arms of that ancient family, extinct (in the issue male thereof) about the end of King Henry VI. His answer unto them was, that he would not wear another man's coat, for fear the right owner thereof should pluck it off over his ears ; and preferred rather to take a new coat ; namely, Azure, Or, a Fess *inter* three Lions rampant, Or ; a Rose, Gules, betwixt two Chaughes proper, being somewhat of the fullest,—the epidemical disease of all arms given in the reign of Henry VIII."\*

The manor of Wimbledon next fell into the possession of Queen Catherine Parr, the last of the six wives of Henry VIII. She entered upon it shortly after the death of Essex, and continued to hold it during her lifetime. The daughter of Sir Thomas Parr, she was married first to Edward Burghe, and secondly to John Neville, Lord Latimer, whose widow she was when Henry cast his affections on her. Her discretion in the management of her peevish and imperious lord is well known—discretion which alone enabled her to survive him. The king left her a legacy of £4,000, besides her jointure. She was afterwards married to Sir Thomas Seymour, lord-admiral of England, brother of the Duke of Somerset, and uncle of Edward VI., with whom she passed a very short and unhappy married life, dying in 1548. Wimbledon once more reverted to the Crown ; and in the hands of the Crown it continued during the remainder of Edward's reign. Mary, whatever may be the outcries raised against her for her bigoted

\* *Church History*, book v. cent. xvi. § 32.

Romanism, did undoubtedly strive to restore Church property to its rightful owner whenever possible. We find, therefore, that Wimbledon again becomes the property of an archbishop, Reginald Pole. Pole did not probably live here, as Mary, who had always felt for him a more than ordinary regard, furnished the palace of Lambeth for him at her own expense. Nor did he long retain his honours and estates, being seized with a fit of ague, which carried him off November 18th, 1558, the day after the death of his royal mistress.

After the death of Cardinal Pole, Wimbledon again became the property of the Crown. It remained in the hands of the Crown through a large part of Elizabeth's reign. Sir Christopher Hatton is supposed by some writers to have been for a time lord of the manor ; but, as far as I can discover, the mistake has originated in a confusion of the grant of the house and surrounding grounds, which Elizabeth did make to her favourite in the eighteenth year of her reign, with a grant of the entire manor. But even the house was retained by Hatton for a very short time. He obtained it April 3rd, 1576, and we find that, on April 23rd of the same year, he sold to Thomas Cecil and his heirs for ever, the mansion-house of the manor, stables, gardens, lands, tenements, woods, &c. &c., "now or late in the tenure or occupation of John Child, originally of Cromwell, afterwards assigned to Reginald Pole, late cardinal, for his life." In fact Elizabeth, like the royal spoliator her father, seems to have considered herself the actual possessor, not the conscientious trustee, of all those properties which had been stolen from the Church, and to have parcelled them out amongst her favourites as it suited her own noble will. Thus we find grants in Wimbledon here and there to those whom she deigned to admit as favourites.\* To John Dudley and John Ayscough, their heirs and assigns for ever, seven and a half acres in the tenure of John Watford ;

\* Enrolments, Land Revenue Record Office.



three acres, called Lamp Acres, in the tenure of Stephen Harpen (17th May, 17 Eliz.) ; a field, called Lords Leeze, towards Merton, containing sixty acres, to John Hatherleigh, valet of the chamber in ordinary (St. Michael's Day, 1586). These and such as these are the clues by which we may understand how the estates of the Church, and Wimbledon amongst the rest, were treated at the hands of her supposed champions.

As Hatton held an interest in Wimbledon for so short a time, we need scarcely give a detailed biography. We will only explain his connection with the Cecil family, of whom we hear more afterwards. Hatton was never married. He left his estates to the son of his sister by Sir William Newport. This nephew took the name of Hatton, and married the daughter of the first Earl of Exeter, the granddaughter of the Lord Treasurer Burleigh, and afterwards famous as "the Lady Hatton," a beauty at the court of James I., married a second time to Sir Edward Coke.\*

Sir Thomas Cecil (the Earl of Exeter spoken of above) had, as we have seen, established a footing in Wimbledon during the lifetime of Hatton. He had purchased the manor-house of the favourite. His father, Sir William Cecil, afterwards Lord Burleigh, had a small grant of land in the parish during the reign of Edward VI.† He also held the lease of the rectory in reversion for sixty years, as we shall find hereafter.‡ During this reign and the greater part of the next he resided at Wimbledon, most probably in the Rectory-house. Soon after entering upon his new residence, he suffered from a severe and dangerous illness. There, as we find from his Diary, "Xth Maij, 1551. (6 Edw. VI.), laboravi febris Wymbletonia (in Com. Surr.) ad mortis periculum;" and amongst the MSS. in the British Museum we find a copy of a letter "from Sir Wm. Cecyll,

\* Lord Campbell's *Lives of the Chancellors*, c. XLV.

† Records of the Manor.

‡ Page 96.

Secretary of State, to the Lord Treasurer, Earl of Bedford," addressed, "From my poore house at Wibleton."\*

Although keeping as much aloof from public affairs as possible during the reign of Mary, the sagacious courtier did not neglect any opportunity which might bring him into favour. We are aware of his friendship with Mary's chief favourite, Cardinal Pole; and the curious student might perhaps discover a connecting link between the residence of Cecil at Wimbledon and the grant of the manor to the cardinal. But the fact becomes more patent when we are obliged to confess in the Protestant champion an outward conformity to Romish ceremonies. Certain it is that he kept a priest in his household, and that he attended Mass at the neighbouring church. A paper is still in existence at the State Paper Office, pronounced by Mr. Lemon to be in the handwriting of William Haddon, Sir W. Cecil's steward. "The names of them that dweleth in the pariche of Wimbletown that was confessed and resaved the sacrament of the altre:—My Master, Sir Wilyem Cecill, and my Lady Myldread, his wyfe."

Then follow other names; "Thomas Cecill," their eldest son, standing next. Lord Burghley's indorsement calls it "The Wimbledon Easter Book, 1556."† His mode of life at this time was simple, and his accounts in the household book show a minute personal care. He was particularly fond of his garden; and, in a memorial dated October 26, 1558, a short time before the accession of Elizabeth, we find an order to "send from London red roses," whether for Wimbledon or Burghley it is difficult to say.

The Cecils, whom we now find firmly established in Wimbledon, were descended from a very ancient family in the county of Lincoln, as well as in the county of Hereford, and derive their descent from Robert Sitsilt, an assistant to Robert Fitzhamon in the conquest of Glamorganshire, in

\* Harleian MSS., 6990.

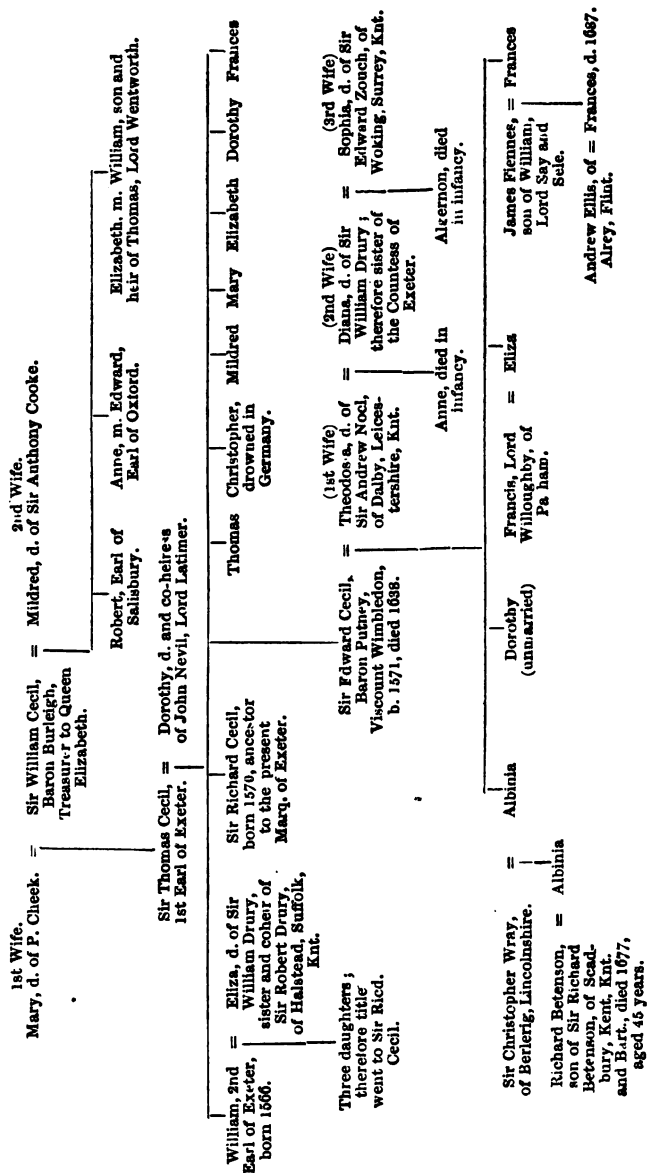
† Dr. Nares's *Life of Lord Burghley*, i. 670.

the time of William Rufus. From them sprung David Cecil, of Stamford, in Lincolnshire, a man of great account, who, being in considerable employment in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII., obtained for Richard, his son and heir, the office of Page of the Crown; which Richard was afterwards advanced to be Groom of the Robes to King Henry VIII., and obtained several considerable grants from that prince. He died in 34 Hen. VIII., and was succeeded in the king's favour by his son William, afterwards Lord Burleigh. This latter died in 1598, leaving issue by Mary, his first wife (daughter of Peter, and sister of the great scholar Sir John Cheeke, Knight), Thomas, his son and heir; and by Mildred, his second wife, daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke, of Gidea Hall, in Essex, Knight, another son, called Robert, created Earl of Salisbury, and two daughters,—Anne, married to Edward, Earl of Oxford, and Elizabeth to William, son and heir to Thomas Lord Wentworth.

Thomas, his son and heir, succeeded him, and in 3 Jac. I., by letters patent, 4th May, was created Earl of Exeter. This was the first precedent of any person being advanced to the dignity of earl of a principal city when another had the dignity of earl of the county, Charles Blount being then Earl of Devonshire. In 43 Eliz., upon the insurrection then made by the Earl of Essex, Cecil went into the City with Garter King-at-arms, and proclaimed him and his adherents traitors. The annexed pedigree explains the history of that part of the Cecil family which was in any way associated with Wimbledon :—

# Pedigree of the Cecil Family,

(As far as respects those connected with Wimbledon.)



A greater antiquity even has been claimed for this family, as we find by a passing remark of Aubrey, who speaks, however, somewhat slightly:—"I have often admired [wondered] that so wise men as the Lord Burghley and his sons were, should so vainly change their name, *sc.* to that of *Sitsilt* in *Monmouthshire*, a family of great antiquity. There are yet of that name there, but the estate is much decayed and become small. I was in Monmouth church anno 1656, and there was in a sash-window of the church a very old escutcheon as old as the church, belonging to the afore-said family; it did hang a little dangerously, and I fear 'tis now spoiled. They are vulgarly called *Seysil*. And Mr. Verstegan (otherwise an exceeding ingenious gentleman), to flatter this family, would have them to be derived from the Roman *Cecilii*; whereas they might as well have been contented with the real antiquity of this and Monmouthshire, and needed not to have gone so far as Italy for it."\*

Wimbledon remained in the hands of the Crown, the Queen being spoken of in the court rolls as Lady of the Manor, till the 32nd year of Elizabeth's reign. We find, however, that an exchange was then made between the Queen and Sir Thomas Cecil, the owner already of the manor-house, by which Wimbledon became the property of the latter. The terms of this exchange were given above, when speaking of Burstow Park.†

This Sir Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter, settled the estate at Wimbledon on his third son, Sir Edward Cecil, who, as we shall see hereafter, from the inscription on his tomb, was engaged in the wars of the Netherlands thirty-five years.‡

\* Aubrey's *History of Surrey*, i. 15.

† See page 25. The manors given by Cecil were Langton and Wiberton, in Lincolnshire.

‡ I am informed by the Marquis of Exeter that he is in possession of a family portrait of Sir Edward Cecil (Lord Wimbledon). There is an engraving of him by Simon Pass.

He was at the battle of Newport, in Flanders. He was Admiral, and also Marshal-General of the forces sent by Kings James I. and Charles I. against the Spaniards and Imperialists. Lord Herbert of Cherbury, who served under him, passing over to Flanders with Lord Chandois in 1610, quaintly describes the bravery of Cecil, who was besieging the city of Juliers with 4,000 English, Marshal de Chartres being in command of the allied French forces. He says: "My Lord Chandois lodged himself in the quarter where Sir Horace Vere was; I went and quartered with Sir Edward Cecil, where I lodged next to him in a hut I made there, going yet both by day and night to the trenches, we making our approaches to the town on one side, and the French on the other.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Sir Edward Cecil (who was a very active general)* used often during the siege to go in person in the night-time to try whether he could catch any sentinels perdues; and for this purpose still desired me to accompany him; in performing whereof both of us did much hazard ourselves, for the first sentinel retiring to the second, and the second to the third, three shots were commonly made at us before we could do anything, though afterwards chasing them with our swords almost home unto their guards, we had some sport in the pursuit of them." \*

He was unsuccessful in the expedition against Cadiz (1625), and loud complaints were then made at his appointment. He defended himself in a short treatise, which still remains in MS. in the British Museum.† On November 9th, 1625, he had been advanced to the dignity of "Baron Cecil of Putney," and on July 25th, 1626, was created "Viscount Wimbledon, in the county of Surrey."

\* Lord Herbert's Life of himself, p. 130, 4th edit.

† He also wrote two short tracts on military affairs, in MS., in the British Museum.

After his return from the wars he was made one of his Majesty's Privy Council; he was Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey in the time of James I. (but did not hold that office at the time of his death); he was also Captain and Governor of Portsmouth. Whilst holding that office he addressed a curious letter, still extant, to the Mayor of Portsmouth, "reprehending him for the townsmen not pulling off their hats to a statue of King Charles, which his lordship had erected there."

We owe also to Lord Wimbledon the revival of the old English march, which had fallen into disuse.\* He married three wives, as shown in the pedigree. He died November 16th, 1638, leaving his estate to his four daughters.† They immediately sold it to Henry Richard, Earl of Holland and others, as trustees for Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I.

Before speaking of her, we may perhaps be allowed a short digression, to mention some royal visits which were paid to Wimbledon.

The popularity which Queen Elizabeth enjoyed was in a great measure due to her frequent appearance amongst her people. The condescension which she manifested during her visits amongst the nobility greatly endeared her to the higher classes; whilst the pageants and shows which marked her progress helped to amuse the people. Bishop Percy says,—“The splendour and magnificence of Elizabeth's reign is nowhere more strongly painted than in these little diaries of some of her summer excursions to the houses of her nobility; nor could a more acceptable present be given to the world than a republication of a select number of such details as this of the entertainment at Elvetham, that at Killingworth, &c. &c., which so strongly mark the spirit

\* *Vide* Appendix III.

† The representatives of Lord Wimbledon are found now in the Daltons of Lincolnshire; Captain Dalton lives in the parish of Fillingham.—*Vide* Burke's *Extinct Baronetages*, sub “Wray.”

of the times, and present us with scenes so very remote from modern manners.\*

The mansion-house at Wimbledon was honoured by one of these receptions. In an entry made during the year 1597, and quoted by Nichols in his "Progresses of Queen Elizabeth," we read,—“In this year the bells of Fulham were rung, when the Queen went to the Lord Burleigh's house at Wimbledon;” and also when “she went to the Lord Admiral's at Chelsea.” Again, in an entry, August 1, 1599,—“Mr. Chamberlain informs us, that the Queen removed from Greenwich the 27th of last month, and dined the same day at Monsieur Caron's,† and so to the Lord Burleigh's‡ at Wimbledon, where she tarried three days, and is now at Nonsuch.”§

These visits were very expensive to her noble entertainers. King Henry VII., if perchance he had occasion to spend more than one night in his subjects' mansions, was accustomed to refuse them permission to incur expense, saying,—“What private subject dare undertake a prince's charge, or look into the secret of his expense.”||

But Elizabeth, though with some difficulty she attempted to moderate the oppression of her purveyors,¶ did not forbid great costliness of entertainment. Her visits to Cecil, the first Lord Burleigh, were not unfrequent. She was twelve

\* *Rel. Anc. Eng. Poet.*, III. 64. Cf. also Homer's *Odyssey*, VII. 69—77.

† Sir Noel Caron was ambassador from the States of Holland for twenty-eight years, during the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. He built a house at South Lambeth, the grounds of which extended to Vauxhall and Kennington Lane. Over the gateway was the form of an H, and the motto, “*Omne solum forti patria.*”

‡ This was the second Lord Burleigh (afterwards Earl of Exeter), for Lord Treasurer Burleigh died the year before, 1598.

§ There is a curious entry in the Churchwardens' books at Kingston, made during this progress, 1599. “Paid for mending the wayes when the Queen went from Wimbledon to Nonsuch, 20d.”

|| Pattenham, *Art of English Poetry*, 1589, p. 247.

¶ Bishop Hurd's *Dialogues, Moral and Political*, pp. 150, 165.



times at Theobalds, beginning in 1564, which was a very convenient distance from London. Each visit cost Cecil "two or three thousand pounds; the Queen lying there at his lordship's charge sometimes three weeks or a month or six weeks together. Sometimes she had strangers or ambassadors came to her hither." Not only were these to be entertained, but the pageants and shows for the people greatly added to the expense. We can, however, discover that the old courtier was not a little pleased at the frequent honours thus paid him by his sovereign. In some other cases these entertainments were more serious. The Marquis of Winchester was nearly ruined by the last of her visits at Basing. The Lord Berkeley was not a little embarrassed by the expense of attending at Ivy Bridge on the noblemen from France, and Doctor Julius Cæsar by the frequent visits of the Queen to Mitcham.

Whilst speaking of these royal progresses, we may anticipate the history of our manor for a short time, to speak of a visit paid by James I. to Wimbledon.

"On the 21st of June, 1616," says Sir John Finett,\* "the King, being invited by the Earl of Exeter † to hunt and dine at Wimbledon (as was also the French ambassador), killed a brace of staggs before he came to the house. Then I demanded when it would be his Majestie's pleasure to give accesse there to the Ambassador, whom he had not yet seen. It was assigned him for after dinner. The Ambassador dined with the Lords and Ladies at a table placed in the midst of a faire roome, he seated in a chaire at the upper end, at his right hand the Earle of Arundel, the Earl of Mountgomery, the Lady Elizabeth Hatton, the Lady Rosse, &c. At his left, the Lady of Exeter, the Lady Ann Tuffton, the Marquis de L'Isle, uncle to the Duke of Retz (new come to England, and to that feast in company of the French Ambassador), the Lord Hays, Sir George Villiers, and others. After dinner, the Ambassador going to see the House, he

\* *Finetti Philoensis*, p. 35.

† The second Lord Burleigh was created Earl of Exeter in 1605.

attended in the gallery the King's coming, and had there an heures entertainment of discourse with his Majesty."

In another entry, June 28th, 1619, "The King knighted, in the morning at Greenwich, Sir Charles Smith, and in the afternoon at Wimbledon, Sir Samuel Rolls."\*

Indirectly we are also informed of a visit from the ambassadors of the States, at the Manor-house of Wimbledon. "On the 22nd, the King knighted at Whitehall, Sir Thomas Shirley of Bethelbrig; and the same day (St. George's) the solemnity deferred till then was there held. The Spanish ambassador Colonna, was, at the 'solemn service' placed on chapel-closet, on the King's side. The States Commissioners were appointed for that on the Queen's side; but because the Spanish ambassador would never indure them so neere him; when there was but a thin wainscot board between them, and a window to be opened at each of their pleasures, they were persuaded to excuse themselves, which they did, The rather because they were invited to the *Éarl of Exeter's at Wimbleton*."†

We have mentioned above that the successor of Lord Wimbledon in the manor was the consort of Charles I.

Henrietta Maria was the youngest child of Henry IV. of France, and of his second wife, Marie de Medicis. She was born at the Louvre, November 25th, 1609, about the time that Marie had succeeded in gaining her husband's consent to her long-cherished wish that she might assume her rightful position as *crowned* queen. The coronation did not actually take place till May 13th, 1610, having been delayed by the superstitious fears of the king, who had been informed by some fortune-tellers that he would not survive his Queen's coronation for a day. It might have been the rumour of these superstitions which induced the maniac assassin Ravaillac to bring this prophecy to a sad fulfilment on the afternoon of the following day. Hen-

\* *Progresses of James I.* vol. III. 765. Our present sovereign, Queen Victoria, was entertained here in the summer of 1838, by the Duke of Somerset, then a resident in the Manor-house.

† *Finetti Philoxensis*, 106—108.

rietta was possessed of great charms, though scarcely in her fifteenth year, when first seen by Prince Charles, son of James I., who visited the French court in disguise, on his way to Madrid, where he appeared as the suitor of the Infanta. Upon the disruption of the Anglo-Spanish match, negotiations were entered into with the French court, on behalf of the young Henrietta, which resulted in her espousal by proxy at Paris, May 11th, 1625, less than two months after the accession of Charles to the throne. On the 23rd of June she arrived in England, and entered upon that life which was chequered with alternations of affection and misfortune so great, as to induce her, with too much reason, to style herself "*la Reine malheureuse*." We cannot follow her through her numerous trials, which are patent to every student of history. It was not till 1638 that she became possessed of the manor of Wimbledon. In the same year we find her making use of the gardens of Wimbledon as nurseries for the growth of rare fruit-trees and flowers, which, though abundant in France, had not yet been introduced into England. A letter written to her mother, with this object in view, shows both kindly feeling and a readiness to encourage industry and improvement.

*"Queen Henrietta Maria to her Queen-mother of France.\**

"MADAME MA MÈRE,—

"In sending this man into France for some fruit-trees and flowers, I supplicate most humbly that your Majesty will aid his undertaking as much as is in your power, that he may not suffer wrong or hindrance, for it will be to my honour.

"Entreating that you will always hold me in your good graces, which is the thing in the world I value the most, and that you may believe me, Madame, your very humble and very obedient daughter and *servante*,

"HENRIETTE MARIE."

*Endorsed, "To the Queen, Madame ma Mère."*

\* Bethune MS., 9310, fol. 33, holograph, quoted by Miss Strickland, *Lives of the Queens of England*, vol. v. 266.

Her royal husband seems also to have taken great interest in the gardens at Wimbledon, for even a few days before he was brought to trial, he ordered the seeds of some Spanish melons to be planted there.\* The mansion is mentioned as belonging to the Crown in the inventory of Charles the First's jewels and pictures.† When the crown lands were put up for sale, this manor, valued at £386. 19s. 8d. per annum, was purchased of the Parliamentary Commissioners by Adam Baynes, Esq., of Knowstrop, in the county of York, at eighteen years' purchase.‡

Mr. Baynes, or Captain Baynes, is described by the historian of Leeds as a "creature of Lambert's," which may throw some light upon the transfer of Wimbledon to the Parliamentary general afterwards. He was the first and only representative in parliament for Leeds during the time of the Commonwealth; and it is not a little remarkable that the first representative for Leeds after its enfranchisement in our own generation should be a Mr. Baines, though not one of the same family. Adam Baynes built Knowstrop Hall, "which contains the latest specimen of dais, or raised step for the high table, which is to be found in England."§ After the Restoration he was permitted to retire quietly to his paternal estate at Knowstrop, where he died December 7th, 1670, after having been compelled to refund the royal manor of Holdenby, in Northamptonshire, which he had purchased of the Parliament for £29,000.

Baynes did not long retain Wimbledon, General Lambert becoming the purchaser on May 17th, 1652, for £16,822. 17s. 8d. The house was then called Wimbledon Hall; the park surrounding it was spoken of as containing 377 acres,

\* Collins's *Peerage*, quoted by Lysons, 392.

† *Anecdotes of Painting*, vol. II. 66. For the inventory, see Appendix IV.

‡ Particulars of Sale, Land Revenue Office. See Appendix V.

§ Whitaker's *History of Leeds*, p. 136.

2 roods, 11 perches; Harpham's farm being in the south corner of the park.\*

Lambert was born of a good family, about the year 1620. Educated originally for the bar, he retained through life "a power of insinuation, and a readiness of speech, which he liked to make use of with the soldiers."† On the outbreak of the rebellion, Lambert abandoned the study of law, and joined the army of the Parliament, in which he is mentioned as holding the rank of colonel at the battle of Marston Moor, July 2nd, 1644. Having distinguished himself in the engagements at Naseby and Worcester, he rose eventually to the rank of major-general. "After the death of Ireton (November, 1651)," says Mrs. Hutchinson, who writes with a little of the spirit of hostility, "Lambert was voted deputy of Ireland, and commander-in-chief there, who, being at that time in the North, was exceedingly elevated with that honour, and courted all Fairfax's old commanders, and other gentlemen, who, upon his promises of preferment, quitted their places, and many of them came to London, and made him up there a very proud train, and still more exalted him, so that too soon he put on the prince, immediately laying out £5,000 for his own particular equipage, and looking upon all Parliament-men, who had conferred this honour on him, as underlings, and scarcely worth a great man's nod. This untimely declaration of his pride gave great offence to the Parliament, who, having only given him a commission for six months for his deputyship, made a vote that, after the expiration of that time, the presidency of the civil and military power of that nation should no more be in his nor in any one man's hands again. This vote was upon Cromwell's procurement, who hereby designed to make way for his new son-in-law, Colonel Fleetwood, who had married the widow of the late Deputy Ireton. There went a story that as my Lady Ireton was walking in

\* Records of the Manor.

† Guizot, *Hist. Eng. Revol.* (Bogue), p. 318.

St. James's Park, the Lady Lambert, as proud as her husband, came by where she was, and as the present princess always hath precedency of the relict of the dead prince, so she put my Lady Ireton below, who, notwithstanding her piety and humility, was a little grieved at the affront. Colonel Fleetwood being then present, in mourning for his wife, who died at the same time her lord did, took occasion to introduce himself, and was immediately accepted by the lady and her father, who designed thus to restore his daughter to the honour she had fallen from. Cromwell's plot took as well as he himself could wish ; for Lambert, who saw himself thus cut off from half his exaltation, sent the House an insolent message, 'that if they found him so unworthy of the honour they had given him as so soon to repent it, he would not retard their remedy for six months, but was ready to surrender their commission before he entered into his office.' They took him at his word, and made Fleetwood deputy, and Ludlow commander of the horse ; *whereupon Lambert, with a heart full of spite, malice, and revenge, retreated to his palace at Wimbledon, and sat there watching an opportunity to destroy the Parliament.*"

On the 20th of April, 1653, the opportunity occurred. Lambert was one of the party who attended Cromwell on that day, when, surrounded by an armed force, he violently dissolved the Parliament ; and though the jealousy between Cromwell and himself was at no time wholly effaced, he was one of the officers summoned in June to assist in the formation of that strange assembly which went by the name of "Barebones Parliament." He was also appointed by Cromwell (now styled Protector, under the Instrument of Government, December 16th, 1653), one of the eleven major-generals chosen in May, 1655, to administer justice in the several districts of England. To Lambert were assigned the five northern counties, Durham, Cumberland, Northumberland, Westmorland, and Yorkshire. The chief duty of these officers was to carry out an edict issued by

Cromwell, for exacting the tenth penny from the royalists, in order, as was pretended, that they might pay the expenses to which their resistance continually exposed the nation. Of this tax, or decimation, Lambert, says Mrs. Hutchinson, was the instigator. But when Cromwell began to ally himself with the nobility, and exhibit signs of securing the succession in his own family, "Lambert, perceiving himself to have been all this while deluded with hopes and promises of succession, and seeing that Cromwell now intended to confirm the government in his own family, fell off from him; but behaved himself very pitifully and meanly, was turned out of all his places, and *returned again to plot new vengeance at his house at Wimbledon*, where he fell to dress his flowers in his garden, and work at the needle with his wife and his maids, while he was watching an opportunity to serve again his ambition, which had this difference from the Protector's,—the one was gallant and great, the other had nothing but an unworthy pride, most insolent in prosperity, and as abject and base in adversity."\* From a book called "The Detection," by Coke, we find, in confirmation of the foregoing statement, that after "Lambert had been discarded by Cromwell, he betook himself to Wimbledon House, where he turned florist, and had the finest tulips and gilliflowers that could be got for love or money; yet in these outward pleasures he nourished the ambition which he entertained before he was cashiered by

\* *Memoirs of Col. Hutchinson* (edit. Bohn), pp. 371, 372. In a note we read, "A life of Lambert has been very obligingly put into the hands of the editor, together with some other scarce tracts relating to those times, by Mr. White, junr., of Lincoln's Inn, who had collected them in the North of England, where Lambert resided. He seems to have enjoyed a better reputation among his countrymen; his horticulture is therein much spoken of, and he is said to have painted flowers, not to have embroidered them." This agrees with the record in the *Anecdotes of Painting*, vol. II. 155.

Some specimens of Lambert's skill in painting remained for a long time in Wimbledon Manor-house.

Cromwell.”\* The final separation between Lambert and the Protector took place when the Parliament summoned by the latter, September 17th, 1656, offered him the crown. Lambert at once became the leader of the opposition, but finding his party growing weaker, prudently absented himself at the passing of the Humble Petition and Advice, 1657. The power which the Protector obtained by this Act was soon exercised upon Lambert. Clarendon says,—“After some sharp expostulations with Lambert, who was as positive in his own humour, Cromwell sent to him for his commission, which he sullenly gave up, when there was a general imagination that he would have refused to have delivered it. So he was deprived of his regiment, his authority in the army, and of being major-general in the North, in an instant, without the least appearance of contradiction or murmur; and the officers Cromwell substituted in the several places, found all the obedience that had been paid to the other; and *Lambert retired to his garden* as unvisited and untaken notice of as if he had never been in authority, which gave great reputation to the Protector that he was entire master of his army.”

Lambert probably continued to reside at Wimbledon till after the death of Oliver and the succession of Richard Cromwell to the Protectorship, when he again became the leader of the opposition; and, joined by a council of officers, forced that weak man to dissolve the Parliament, April 22nd, 1659. This act virtually expelled Richard. He soon after signed his own demission. The surviving section of the Long Parliament was restored; a measure which excited the alarm of both Presbyterians and Royalists, who united to overthrow it. Lambert defeated their party, but only to turn again upon the Parliament, which, in union with the other officers, he expelled, October 23rd, electing a committee of twenty-three persons, and investing them with sovereign authority, under the title of a “Committee of Safety.”

\* Page 406.



But the army which Lambert assembled to march against Monk in the North, revolted again to the Parliament; that body was once more restored; Lambert was seized and committed to the Tower, January, 1660. On the 9th of April he made his escape, but was recaptured on the 22nd by Colonel Ingoldsby, at Daventry, where he had assembled a body of horse, which deserted him in his need. He was exempted from the Act of Indemnity passed after the Restoration; and in June, 1662, was brought to trial, with Sir Harry Vane, but escaped on account of his dutiful and submissive behaviour during the examination. He was banished to the island of Guernsey, where he lived for more than thirty years.

After the restoration of Charles II., Wimbledon, together with other of the dower lands, were given back to the Queen-mother, Henrietta Maria. Most of these had been seized and occupied by the regicides. Okey, Walton, Scroop, Norton, Pride, Whaley, Edwards, Tichbourne, and Blackwell, as well as Lambert, were in possession of different manors belonging to her. In some cases it was found impossible to restore these dower lands; and in all the property was much injured. Parliament, therefore, in January, 1661, agreed to grant her Majesty £30,000 a year as compensation, to which the King added a pension of £30,000 more from the Exchequer, on condition that the queen would abide by the ancient customs of the country, which required that the dower income should be spent in England. She consented, therefore, to return and live in England, as soon as she had arranged the marriage of her daughter, the Princess Henrietta, with the Duke of Anjou. Orders and plans were given by her for the repairs of her dower palaces of Somerset House and Greenwich. But Wimbledon had lost its charms for her, "it smelt so strong of a rebel,"\* and it was sold on June 10th, 1660, to William, Earl of Bedford, John Russell

\* *Magna Britannica.*

and Edward Russell, his brothers, as trustees for George Digby, Earl of Bristol.\*

Henrietta redeemed her promise of returning to England after the marriage of her daughter. She came back on July 28th, 1662, settling first at Greenwich, and afterwards at Somerset House; but the air of England, and especially the fogs of London, made serious inroads on her health, and eventually, July 24th, 1665, she went back to France, and passed her remaining years at the Castle of Colombe, where she died, August 31st, 1669.

George Digby was the eldest son of John, Earl of Bristol, and was born in Madrid in 1612, during his father's first embassy in Spain. He entered Magdalene College, Oxford, in 1626, where he became intimate with the learned Peter Heylin, then a fellow of the college. He soon showed remarkable literary powers, and was made M.A. in 1636. In the beginning of the Long Parliament he was opposed to the Court, but soon took a decided stand against the Parliament, particularly in his condemnation of their proceedings against Lord Strafford. He was, therefore, expelled the House of Commons in June, 1641. He was accused of high treason in the following year, by the Parliament, because he had travelled to Kingston-on-Thames with a coach and six—sufficient, in the eyes of such a tyrannical party, to be construed into a pretence of levying war. He was obliged to flee into Holland. He was taken prisoner afterwards by one of the Parliament ships, as he was travelling on an expedition for the king, and brought to Hull, but shortly afterwards escaped. In 1643 he was made one of the secretaries of state, and high steward of the University of Oxford. In 1645 he was appointed lieutenant-general of the king's forces north of the Trent. He afterwards went over to Ireland, where he still bravely defended the royal cause. On the death of Charles I. he was exempted from pardon by the Parliament, and obliged to live in exile till the

\* Records of the Manor.

Restoration, when he recovered all his possessions, and was created Knight of the Garter. After this he mixed much in public affairs, and was prominent in his opposition to Lord Clarendon when chancellor. Pepys gives us a passing account of the anxiety this caused the king. After giving various supposed reasons for a sudden adjournment of the Parliament, he proceeds, "But the truth is, the king is offended at my Lord of Bristol, as they say, whom he hath found to have been all this while pretending a desire of leave to go into France, and to have all differences between him and the Chancellor made up, endeavouring to make factions in both houses to the Chancellor. So the king did this to keep the Houses from meeting; and in the meanwhile sent a guard and a herald last night to have taken him at *Wimbledon*, where he was in the morning, but could not find him; at which the king was and is still mightily concerned, and runs up and down to and from the Chancellor like a boy; and it seems would make Bristol's articles against the Chancellor to be treasonable reflections against his Majesty. So that the king is very high, as they say; and God knows what will follow upon it."\* The Chancellor, however, speaks very impartially of him in his State Papers.

The following letter from the Comte de Comminges, the French ambassador at Whitehall, to Louis XIV., gives us a yet further insight into the character of Bristol.

"Janvier 25—Fevrier 4, 1663-4.†

"Dimanche dernier le Comte de Bristol se présenta dans la paroisse d'*Oulmilton* [Wimbledon], à 2 lieux de Londres, avec un notaire et des temoins, et prit acte devant tout le peuple qu'il étoit Protestant, et que de bon cœur il renonçoit à la religion Catholique. Après il prit le Ministre et quelques uns des plus honnêtes

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\* Pepys' *Diary*, March 17th, 1664.

† From original letters in the Bibliothèque du Roi, at Paris, copied by Sir Cuthbert Sharp, F.S.A.

gens, et les mena dîner chez lui, car cette maison lui appartient, l'ayant acheté de la Reine Mère. Le dîner fini, il monta à cheval avec 4 cavaliers, et se retira. L'action est insolente et téméraire, et fait juger qu'il se présentera sitôt que le Parlement s'ouvrira. Chacun blâme cette conduite, mais personne ne se met en peine de la punir."

Horace Walpole thus pithily sums up Bristol's character:—"A singular person, whose life was one contradiction. He wrote against Popery, and embraced it; he was a zealous opposer of the court, and a sacrifice for it; was conscientiously converted in the midst of his prosecution of Lord Strafford, and was most unconscientiously a prosecutor of Lord Clarendon. With great parts, he always hurt himself and his friends; with romantic bravery, he was always an unsuccessful commander. He spoke for the Test-act, though a Roman Catholic, and addicted himself to astrology on the birthday of true philosophy." \*

Swift calls him "the prototype of Lord Bolingbroke." Dr. Kippis, however, observes that, "Amid his lordship's numerous faults he was distinguished by a softness and tenderness of disposition." †

Shortly after his purchase of Wimbledon, Bristol seems to have consulted Evelyn on the laying out of his grounds. The latter tells us in his Diary, February 17th, 1662,—“I went with my Lord of Bristol to see his house at Wimbledon, newly bought of the Queen-Mother, to help contrive the garden after the modern. It is a delicious place for prospect and the thickets, but soil cold and weeping lay.”

Digby lived about sixteen years after his purchase of Wimbledon, dying in 1676, “neither loved nor regretted,” says Horace Walpole, “by any party.”

Upon the death of the Earl of Bristol, his widow and devisee conveyed the estate at Wimbledon to Thomas Osborne, Marquis of Carmarthen, afterwards Duke of Leeds.

\* *Royal and Noble Authors*, sub “Bristol.”

† *Biograph. Britan.*

He was a Yorkshire gentleman of great ability, who had risen by his parliamentary talents. Upon the overthrow of the notorious Cabal ministry in 1673, Osborne was raised to the post of Lord Treasurer, and soon afterwards rewarded by the title of Earl of Danby. His policy was directly adverse to the French alliance, and to accomplish his object, he was mainly instrumental in bringing about the marriage between William, Prince of Orange, and the Princess Mary, elder daughter of the Duke of York, which was celebrated November 4th, 1677. Upon the pretended discovery of the Popish plot by Titus Oates, Danby was urgent in bringing the matter before Parliament. But the encouragement which was given to informers being thereby increased, Danby himself fell a victim. Montague, the English ambassador at Paris, laid before the House two papers, one of which was a letter from Danby, offering the assistance of Charles II. to Louis of France, for a stipulated sum. Although Danby proved that the letter was written against his own desire, pointing to the royal handwriting beneath,—“This letter is writ by my order, C.R.,” yet he was impeached by the Commons. The Peers, seeing that his crime did not fall under the statute of Edward III., refused to commit him, and a serious contest might have arisen, had not the king dissolved the Parliament, January 24th, 1679. The new Parliament followed up the impeachment, and Danby was committed to the Tower, where he remained till a short time before the death of Charles II.

Collins, in his “Peerage,” under the family of Osborne, says,—“This family is of good antiquity in England, sometime seated in Kent, but of latter ages in the northern parts of the realm; of which surname and family was John Osborne, who was returned, 12 Hen. VI., in the list of gentry of the county of Kent; as also of Richard Osborne, of Ashford, in the county aforesaid, who married Jane, sister and heir of Everard Broughton, Esq., an ancient family in Westmoreland, and had issue Sir Edward Osborne, sheriff of London 17 Eliz., and Lord Mayor

25 Eliz., 1583. Which Sir Edward married Anne, daughter and heir of Sir William Hewet, also Lord Mayor of London in that reign,\* and had issue Edward Osborne, who was created a baronet 1620 (18 Jac. I.). He was greatly esteemed for his eminent loyalty." He was vice-president of the Council to Charles I. for the northern parts of England, and lieutenant-general of the forces raised for the service of that prince, upon the first breaking out of the great rebellion. He had three wives. By the last, Elizabeth, eldest of four daughters, and co-heir of John Nevil, Lord Latimer,† he had issue Thomas.

Thomas adhered to the royal interest; was made Treasurer of the Navy; sworn of the Privy Council; created Viscount Dublain in Scotland, May 3rd, 1672; Lord High Treasurer of England, June 19th, 1673; on 15th August (25 Charles II.) Baron of the United Kingdom, Baron Kiveton, Viscount Latimer; on 7th of June (25 Charles II.) Earl of Danby; 29 Charles II., Knight of the Garter;

\* In this case we find the oft-repeated story of the drowning child and a brave apprentice, who appears at the opportune moment to save her and eventually to marry her. Horace Walpole tells us, and evidently believes, that "Thomas Osborne, first duke of Leeds, was great-grandson to Edward Osborne, who in the reign of Henry VIII. was put apprentice to Sir William Hewet, a merchant of considerable eminence, then residing on London Bridge. It happened that his master's only daughter fell from the arms of her maid into the Thames, and must inevitably have perished had it not been for the heroism of young Osborne, who plunged into the river and brought her safe to shore. As a recompense for this act of magnanimity, Sir William bestowed on the courageous youth his daughter and his fortune, which procured him the civic honours of sheriff in 1575, and Lord Mayor in 1582, when he was knighted at Westminster. He served in Parliament for the city of London in 1585, and died 1591," Duke of Leeds.—*Royal and Noble Authors*, sub "Leeds." Collins is silent on this sudden rise to wealth and station.

† She therefore was sister of Dorothy, first wife of Sir Thomas Cecil, first Earl of Exeter, and aunt of the future Duke of Leeds. *Vide* Cecil Pedigree.

Marquis of Carmarthen, April 9th, 1689 ; Duke of Leeds, May 4th, 1694.

In 1695 he was impeached by the House of Commons on the charge of receiving money for promoting the charter of the East-India Company ; but King William having prorogued the Parliament a few days afterwards, no further prosecution was carried on against him. In the reign of Anne, he distinguished himself in the trial of Dr. Sacheverell, and on that occasion spoke with great warmth of the revolution, which he had assisted to bring about.

He died at Easton, in Northamptonshire, the seat of his grandson, Lord Lempster, as he was on his journey to his own house in Yorkshire, 26th July, 1712, in the eighty-first year of his age.

He married Lady Bridget, second daughter (by his first wife) of Montague Bertie, Earl of Lindsey, lord high chancellor of England, leaving three sons and six daughters.\*

By his will, dated 21st January, 1711, he devised Wimbledon to the Earl of Abingdon and others, as trustees, who, under a decree in Chancery, sold it, in 1717, to Sir Theodore Janssen, one of the South-Sea directors.

Sir Theodore Janssen was of French extraction. He left France several years before the persecution of the Protestants, coming from Guelderland into England, where he married a daughter of Sir Robert Henley, of the Grange, in Hampshire, by whom he left five sons and three daughters. He was knighted by William III., and made a baronet by George I., March 11th, 1714. By mercantile pursuits he raised the fortune of £20,000, given him by his father, to £300,000 ; but was unfortunate enough to lose a large portion of this as one of the directors of the notorious South-Sea Company. We need not describe the fearful crisis in the money-market, the scenes in Change Alley, or the failure of the South-Sea scheme. The cry of a ruined people was directed not only against the directors, but

\* Collins's *Peerage*, sub "Osborne."

against the ministry, and even the royal family. A bill was hurried through Parliament, "restraining the South-Sea directors from going out of the kingdom, obliging them to deliver up on oath the strict value of their estates, and offering rewards to discoverers or informers against them."\* A secret committee of inquiry was appointed by the Commons. The cashier of the company, dreading an examination, escaped to France, carrying the register with him. On the 23rd January, 1721, four of the directors, members of Parliament, were expelled the House, taken into custody, and their papers seized. Sir Theodore Janssen, as member for Yarmouth, in the Isle of Wight, was one of these. Macpherson says,—“Several of the directors were so far innocent as to be found poorer at the breaking up of the scheme than when it began.”† Amongst them we must number Sir Theodore Janssen. He himself lost £50,000 during the year 1720. But “Parliament was pleased to take from him,” says a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, “above £220,000—near one-half his real estate—by a law made *ex post facto*, which was given for the relief of the proprietors of that company, though they had gained several millions by the scheme, and though it appeared, when the allowance came to be settled in the House of Commons, that he had done many signal services to this nation.”‡ He had begun to pull down the old house at Wimbledon, and build a new one, at the time that his estates were seized. In the account which he delivered, June 20th, 1720, he states, £2,118. 14s., as laid out in building the new house, which, it appears, was carried on, as, by a further statement, on the 20th of March following, the money so laid out was increased to £3,977. 11s. He states the annual amount of the quit-rents to be £62. 13s. 10d., and the average of fines £90, which, added to lands and

\* Mahon's *Hist. of England*, II. 17 (5th edit.).

† *Hist. of Commerce*, vol. III. p. 112.

‡ Vol. XVIII. (1748), p. 428.



some tenements let, make an income of £553. 3s. 10d., besides the house, fifty acres of meadow, and thirty-one of wood, in hand. He reckons the value at £22,000. He had also a lease for three lives of the tithes of *Wimbledon*, *Putney*, *Roehampton*, and *Mortlack*, producing, clear of outgoings, £210. 13s. 6d. a year.\* At the conclusion of the account given in by him, Sir Theodore makes the following appeal to the humanity of the House :—"As I have given a faithful and just account of my whole estate, without concealing or reserving anything, and my family is very numerous, and most of my children are under age, so that I have not had an opportunity to make the least provision for them by marriage or other ways, I hope it will be a motive and inducement to commiserate their hard circumstances ; for, should I be proceeded against according to the rigour of the bill now depending in Parliament, I and my whole family must be reduced to absolute beggary. And having, during the course of the transactions of the South-Sea Company, which have been so unfortunately managed, made all the opposition that possibly I could in the several parts of it which have been most censured, or been ignorant of them, I hope that my unparalleled case will be thought to deserve consideration ; but, whatever may be my fate, which in all humility I submit to the determination of Parliament, I have chosen to preserve to the last the character of an honest man."†

Although he ceased to be lord of the manor of Wimbledon, Sir Theodore continued to reside there until his death, which occurred September 22nd, 1748, when he was more than ninety years of age. His two eldest sons dying without issue, he was succeeded in the title by his third son, Sir Stephen Theodore Janssen, who, like his father, becoming unfortunate in business, was equally anxious to preserve his

\* *Partic. and Invent. of South-Sea Directors*, vol. II. pp. 62, 75, 85, 87, of Sir Theodore's account.—Manning, vol. III. p. 269.

† Manning, 269. Cf. *Gentleman's Mag.*, xxxv. 45, 97, 143.

honour, devoting two-thirds of the allowance made him by his relations for the benefit of his creditors, and upon his being chosen Chamberlain of London, entering into an engagement for the full payment of his debts with interest.\*

Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, was the purchaser of Wimbledon, for £15,000, after the failure of Sir Theodore Janssen. This remarkable woman, the beautiful Sarah Jennings of earlier years, the "Mrs. Freeman" of Queen Anne's court, is too well known to all readers of history to need any further biography here. Left by the death of her husband, in 1722, the mistress of enormous wealth, she was enabled to indulge her every whim and caprice. Wimbledon was one of her favourite spots, and here she died, at a very advanced age, October 18th, 1744. This manor, as well as Chilworth, her lease of the Rectory here, and other estates, were left to her favourite grandson, John Spencer, the youngest son of Charles, Earl of Sunderland, by the Lady Anne Churchill, his second wife, who was second daughter and co-heir of John, Duke of Marlborough.

Collins, in writing of the Sunderland family, says,—“They derive themselves from a younger branch of the ancient Barons Spencer,—men famous many ages since in England (among which were the Spencers Hugh, father and son, favourites of Edward II.).”

John Spencer, Esq., son to John Spencer of Hodenhull, in the county of Warwick, having purchased the great manor of Wormleighton, situate in the southern part of the county, began the structure of a very fair manor-house there (22 Hen. VII.), and left issue Sir John Spencer, Knt.

He left Robert Spencer, who, 1 Jac. I., was created Baron of the realm, under the title of “Lord Spencer of Wormleighton.” He was succeeded by William, his second son, the eldest dying in his lifetime. He died in 1636, and was succeeded by his eldest son Henry, who, for his loyalty, was created Earl of Sunderland, 19 Charles I. He was slain

\* *Gent. Mag.*, XLVI. 93 (1776).

in the battle of Newbury, September 20th of the same year. He left issue by Dorothy his wife, daughter of Robert, earl of Leicester, one only son, called Robert.

Robert, made Knight of the Garter by King Charles II., was, in 1678, Secretary of State, upon Sir Joseph Williamson's resignation of that office. He was President of the Council 1 Jac. II., of whom he became a great favourite, because he supported the encroachments of Rome; but his true opinions at length becoming apparent, James displaced him. At first he was excluded from William's Act of Indemnity, and therefore fled to Holland. Upon his return he was made Lord Chamberlain by the king, but afterwards resigned. He died 1702. He married Lady Anne Digby, second daughter of George, last Earl of Bristol, by whom he had two sons and two daughters,—

1. Robert, who died in France, unmarried.
2. Charles, who succeeded him. He was sent by Queen Anne as envoy extraordinary to the emperor; was afterwards Secretary of State, but resigned in 1710. He married,—

1st. Lady Arabella, fifth and youngest daughter of Henry, Duke of Newcastle, by whom he had one daughter.

2nd. Lady Anne Churchill, second daughter and co-heir of John, Duke of Marlborough, by whom he had four sons and one daughter.

1. Robert, Lord Spencer, died in infancy.
2. Robert, Lord Spencer, born 1702.
3. Charles.
4. John (who inherited Wimbledon).
1. Lady Anne.\*

The manor has continued in the Spencer family ever since. On the death of John Spencer, Esq., the original inheritor from the duchess, it descended to his only son John, who was created Viscount and Baron Spencer in 1761, and, in 1765, Earl Spencer Viscount Althorpe. He

\* Collins's *Peerage*, sub "Sunderland."

died October 31st, 1783, and was succeeded by his only son George John, at that time M.P. for Surrey, having been elected in 1782; on the promotion of Admiral Keppel to the Upper House. He married, in 1781, Lavinia, eldest daughter of the first Earl of Lucan, and upon his death, in 1834, was succeeded by his son John Charles, who, as Lord Althorpe, held office as Lord of the Treasury under the Fox and Grenville administration in 1806; and on the accession of the Whigs to power in 1830, was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons. He was an active promoter of the Reform Bill. In 1814 he married Esther, daughter of R. Acklom, Esq.; but dying October 1st, 1845, without male heirs, was succeeded by his brother Frederick Spencer, K.G. He married, first, in 1830, the second daughter of William Stephen Poyntz, Esq., of Cowdray Park, Sussex; was a rear-admiral reserved; Lord Steward of the Household, and one of the Council of the duchy of Lancaster; was equerry to H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent; Lord Chamberlain 1846-48; was M.P. for Worcestershire 1831-32, for Midhurst 1832-33, and again 1837-41. He served at Navarino, and received the cross of St. Louis of France; was a knight of St. Anne of Russia, and of the Redeemer of Greece. He married, second, in 1854, Adelaide, daughter of Sir H. B. Seymour, and dying Dec. 27th, 1857, was succeeded by John Poyntz, the present earl, groom of the stole to H.R.H. Prince of Wales. He married, 1858, Charlotte Frances Frederica, third daughter of Frederic Charles William and Lady Augusta Seymour, and great-granddaughter of Francis, first Marquis of Hertford.

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In the Confessor's time the manor was valued at £32 per annum; afterwards at only £10; when the survey of Domesday was taken, at £38; in 1291, on the valuation of the ecclesiastical revenues, at £20; in Archbishop Bouchier's

time, £47. 17s. 8d. ; when the Crown lands were sold in 1650, at £386. 19s. 8d.

The court rolls of the manor begin 1 Hen. VI., 1422. They are perfect from 1st to 7th of this reign, then wanting to 14th ; perfect to the end. Edw. IV., Hen. VII., Hen. VIII., Philip & Mary perfect ; wanting in Elizabeth's reign from 12th to 16th and from 26th to 32nd.

At a Court Baron 1st January, 6 Edw. VI., an order was made that the rolls should be kept in a chest in the parish church with three locks, one of the keys of which should be kept by the steward, another by the reeve of the manor, and a third by the lord.

The customs of the manor, though many of them are of necessity now become obsolete, ran as follows :—

(1.) On change of the lord, the tenants anciently paid a fine or gift of £6. 13s. 4d., called palfrey money or saddle silver. This fine was levied on the tenants by an order of the court held 33 Hen. VI., and of another, 30 Hen. VIII., when the manor came to the Lord Cromwell ; but the tenants prayed time for payment. (2.) Every purchaser of a customary estate pays a fine, at the will of the lord, at his first admission ; but none at any subsequent admission, nor if he succeed by inheritance. (3.) Heriot, on the death of a customary tenant seized of a yardland (fifteen acres), or the greatest part thereof, a black sheep, or in lieu thereof, 10d. ; and for a relief, 2s. 2d. (4.) If the heir of a customary tenant be within age, he is to be admitted by his guardian, to be assigned by the lord, and to be him to whom the guardianship belongs by rules of common law. For such assignment a fine is to be paid, which has been generally small, but has varied. (5.) Customary tenants may let for three years without licence, but not longer, on pain of forfeiting the estate. The fine for such licence has varied. (6.) The lord hath a leet at Easter, when the head boroughs pay a common fine,—for Putney, 6s. 8d. ; Roehampton, 2s. ; Mortlake, 8s. 4d. ; Barnes, 5s. ; Wimbledon, formerly 8s. 4d., but abated, by reason of the parsonage, to

6s. 8d. (7.) The customary tenants are to gather quit-rents ; and one who holds two yardlands, or thirty acres, is annually chosen at the court for that purpose. Anciently the tenants named two or three, and the lord appointed one of those ; and those who held three yardlands were liable to serve the office of beadle. (8.) The inhabitants of the several towns to find weights and scales, stocks, and a whipping-post. (9.) At courts held 23rd October, 1640, and June 21st, 1663, it was presented by the Homage that by the custom of the manor, out of every fishing-room belonging to Mortlake and Putney, several salmons were due, to be delivered annually to the lord by the fishermen there, for their liberty and licence of fishing, and landing and pitching their nets in the soil and shore of the lord ; for that the interest of the soil of the river to the low-water mark belongs to the lord, and the fishermen are to have licence to fish there. Licences are entered at different times. In 15 Henry VI., one " Day " was presented for giving to the lord, deceitfully, the worst salmon, taken 24th March, contrary to the ancient custom.\* (10.) The wastes and commons and trees growing thereon belong to the lord. (11.) The lord hath liberty to grant, with consent of the free and customary tenants, parcels of the waste for years, or otherwise.

Tenants' privileges :—(1.) On the death of the copyholder, the youngest son, or youngest daughter, brother, sister, or nephew, is the customary heir. (2.) The husband of a customary tenant shall be tenant by courtesy ; and the wife shall have dower as by common law. (3.) May let for three years without licence. (4.) Have common in the lord's wastes all the year, and hedge-bote, plough-bote, &c. ; but not to dig gravel, clay, or turf.†

\* Page 22.

† The Saxon word *Bote* is synonymous with the French *estovers*, i.e., sufficient allowance of wood for repairs of hedges, ploughs, &c.

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE MANOR-HOUSE.

First recorded Manor-house. Mansion built by Sir Thomas Cecil. Accounts of it by Aubrey and Fuller. Accurate description of it. The House commenced by Sir Theodore Janssen. First House built by the Duchess of Marlborough. Second House. Its destruction by fire. Hannah More's description of it. Present House. Park, Lake, &c. &c.

WE have stated before that the manor-house in which resided the lords of the manor of Mortlake or Wimbledon was situated at Mortlake. There are evidences, nevertheless, of a pretty substantial house having existed at Wimbledon from very early times; for instance, in the inquisition taken during the archbishopric of Arundel.\* We have seen also that the house at Mortlake which was standing in 1547 was probably pulled down soon afterwards.† Henceforward the residence was at Wimbledon. Sir Thomas Cecil having purchased the house of Sir Christopher Hatton, began to rebuild it in 1588, two years before he obtained a grant of the manor by exchange with Queen Elizabeth.‡

The new building was very magnificent, but received considerable damage in 1628, by the accidental explosion of some gunpowder.§ It was, perhaps, after its repair that the

\* See page 17.

† Page 19.

‡ Page 36.

§ This was in the tenure of Sir Edward Cecil, Viscount Wimbledon. He had built a large mansion in St. Mary-le-Strand, London. As if to prove that misfortunes never come singly, we find from Stow's *Annals* that this "house was burned quite down in November, 1628, and that the day before, his lordship had the misfortune of having part of his house at Wimbledon, in Surrey, blown up by gunpowder." Doiley's linen warehouse occupied the site in 1828.

outside of the house was painted in fresco by Francis Cleyné.\*

Aubrey, who wrote "The Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey" towards the end of the seventeenth century, gives us a passing notice of the house, which is worth extracting. "At Wandsworth is a manufacture of brass plates, for kettles, skellets, frying-pans, &c., by *Dutch* men, who keep it as a mystery. Here is a bridge called the '*sink of the country*'; from hence to New Park you go over a great heath, call'd *Wimbleton Heath*, or *Common*, where was a windmill by the road, an eminent landmark, now removed near to the *Thames* in Wandsworth parish. From the road on this common, about of a mile southward, stands Wimbleton House, a noble seat, facing the north, now George earl of Bristol's. This house was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Anno mirabil. 1588, by . . . . Cecil, as appears by the inscription over the gate,

"*Exstructæ sunt hæc Ædes Anno Mirabili 1588, quo Classis Hispanica hostiliter, sed frustra, tentavit Angliam,*

adorned with fresco; but of two colours, *sc.* yellow and burnt oker. A fine park and garden belong to this house; but the park is low marish ground." †

Fuller, in his "Worthies," after praising Richmond and Nonsuch, says, in his quaint style, "But grant it *Non-such* for building (on which account this and Windsor Castle are onely taken notice of in the description of Sebastian Braune), yet, in point of clean and neat situation, it hath *Some-such*, not to say some *Above-such*. Witness *Wimbleton* in this county, a *daring structure*, built by Sir Thomas Cecil in eighty eight, when the Spaniards invaded and (blessed be God) were conquered by our nation." ‡

\* *Anecdotes of Painting.*

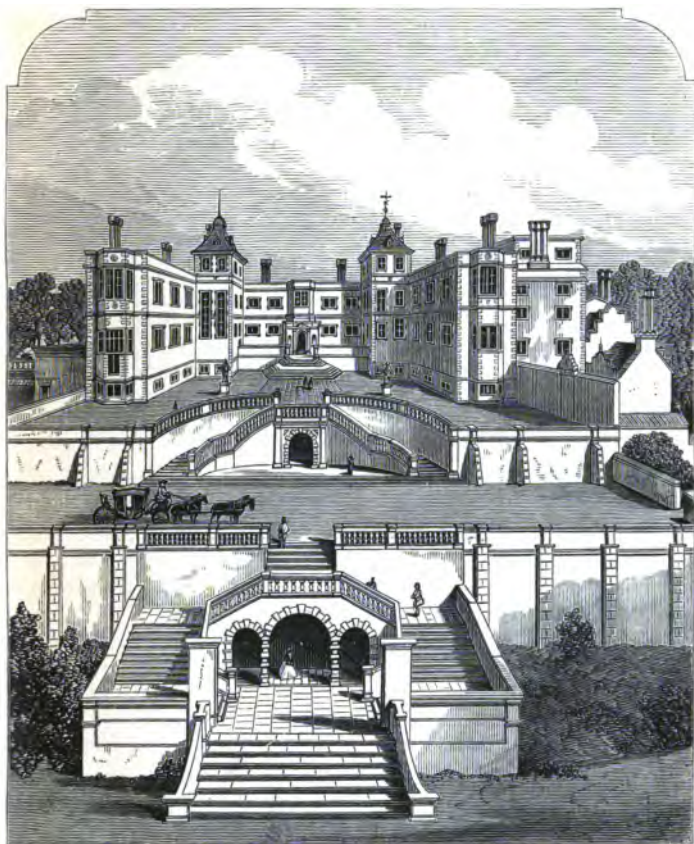
† Aubrey's *History of Surrey*, i. 14.

‡ Fuller's *Worthies*, pt. III. 78.



A very minute and accurate survey of the house and grounds was taken by order of the Parliament in 1649.\* It is printed in the tenth volume of the "*Archæologia*." It begins with a description of the offices: the kitchen, larder, landrie room, foulding room, still house, beer cellars, wine cellars, &c. &c. The gardener's chamber is then spoken of, and the Spanish room, "floored with white paynted tyle, waynscotted round, the most part of which waynscote is varnished greene, and spotted with stars of gould, seeled over head, and filled for the present with boxes, wherein oringe and pomegranat trees are planted." After mentioning two courts, one lying twenty-six steps higher than the other, it continues thus:—"The scite of this manor house being placed on the side slipp of a rising ground, renders it to stand of that height that, betwixt the basis of the brick-wall of the sayd lower court, and the hall door of the sayd manor-house there are five several assents, consisting of threescore and ten stepps, which are distinguished in a very graceful manner; to witt, from the parke to a payre of rayled gates, set betwixt two large pillars of brick; in the middle of the wall standing on the north side of the sayd lower court is the first assent, consisting of eight stepps of good free-stone, layed in a long square, within which gates, levell with the highest of those eight steppes, is a pavement of freestone, leading to a payr of iron gates rayled on each side thereof with turned ballasters of freestone, within which is a little paved court leading to an arched vault neatly pillowred with brick, conteyning on each side of the pillers a little roome well arched, serving for cellaridge of botteled wines; on each side of this vault are a payre of staires of stone stepps, twentie-three stepps in assent, eight foote nine inches broad; meeting an even landing-place in the height thereof, leading from the aforesayd gates unto the lower court, and

\* The original is now in the Land Revenue Office, where I was kindly permitted to examine it.



WIMBLEDON HOUSE IN 1678.

From an Engraving by HENRY WINSTANLEY, of Littlebury in Essex.



make the second assent; from the height of this assent a pavement of Flanders bricke thirteene foot six inches broad, leading to the third assent, which stands on the south side of the lower courte, consisting of a round modell, in the middle whereof is a payre of iron gates rayled as aforesayd, within which is a fountayne fitted with a leaden cesterne fed with a pipe of lead; this round conteynes a payre of stone stayres of 26 stepps in assent, ordered and adorned as the second assent is, and leades into the sayd higher courte, and soe makes the third assent; from the height whereof a pavement of square stone nine foote broad and eightie-seaven foote long leads up to the fowerth assent, which consists of eleven stepps of freestone very well wrought and ordered, leading into a gallery paved with square stone, sixtie-two foote long and eight foote broad; adjoyning to the body of the sayd manor-house towards the south, and rayled with turned ballasters of stone towards the north; in the middle of this gallery, the hall-doore of the sayd manor-house, the fabrick whereof is of columns of freestone very well wrought, doth stand, into which hall from the said gallery is an assent of two stepps. From the forementioned first assent there is a way cut forth of the parke, planted on each side thereof with elmes and other trees, in a very decent order, extending itself in a direct line two hundred thirty-one perches from thence quite through the parke northward unto Putney-common, being a very special ornament to the whole house."\*

The Survey goes on to describe a room on the ground floor called the Stone Gallery, "108 foote long, seeled over head, pillored and arched with gray marble, waynscotted round with oake waynscott varnished with greene and spotted with starrs of gould, and benched all along the sides and angles thereof;" in the middle was "a gröttoe wrought in the arch and sides thereof with sundry sorts of shells of great lustre and ornament, formed into shapes of men, lyons, serpents, antick formes, and other rare devices, the

\* One side of the avenue may still be traced.

bottomes of the walls are sett round with cement of glass, in nature of little rockes; in the middle of this roome is one cesterne of lead, seven foote square and twentie one inches deepe, sided with black and whyte marble, having one pipe of lead in the middle thereof: there is also opposite to the doores of this room fortie sights of seeing-glass sett together in one frame, much adorning and setting forth the splendour of the roome." In the hall, which was "waynscotted round eight foote high,"—which had "an arched skreene of double waynscot in the lower end thereof, on which the chalices or brass bolls well guilt stand for an ornament to the whole roome," was "a table of one intire peice of wood, 21 foote long and six inches thick." This room was also adorned with "a border or fret, having set therein eleven pictures of very good workmanship. The seeling was of fret or parge work, in the very middle whereof was fixed one well wrought landskip, and round the same in convenient distances seven other pictures in frames, as ornaments to the whole roome; the floor was of black and white marble." Outside it was a balcony 108 feet by 12. Near it was "the organ roome, adorned with a fayre and rich payre of organs."\* Next came the "greene chamber." "The chapell was well adorned with pulpitt, reading desk, and handsome seates or pewes, with a pavement of black and white polished marble:" the roof was "a quadrate arch," painted with landscapes, as were also the side walls above the wainscot. Next follows a description of the buttery. The lower parlour was "waynscotted with oake adorned with starres and cross pates of gould, the ceiling thereof a quadrate arch, in the middle of which hung one pinnacle perpendicular, garnished in every angle with coates of armes well-wrought and richly guilt." Near this was the balcony-room, the ceiling of which was also "a quadrat arch, garnished and adorned in the angles with variety of several kinds of curious works." On this same, the first floor, were the Lord's Chamber, the

\* These were taken from Wimbledon, and sold by warrant of the trustees for the sale of the king's and queen's goods.

Queen's Chamber, the withdrawing-room, two bath-rooms, "the outward floored with deale, the inward with paynted tile, and fitted with a lead cesterne, a brass copper, pipes of lead, and brass cocks;" a "lynnen room, and a sweatmeat room." On this floor was also the "Stone gallery, 62 feet by 10, floored with square tile, handsomely lighted, and seeled upon the walls, whereof are writt many compendious sentences." At the east and west ends of the house were two staircases, 20 feet square, topped with turrets of a great height, covered with blue slate; on "the middle pinnacles whereof stood two faier gilded wether-cocks, per-spicious to the countrie round about." The west staircase contained eighty-two steps, the east stairs thirty-three. "These staires are adorned with one large picture of Henry the Fourth of France in armes on horseback, set in a large frame, placed at the head thereof; and with landskipps of battayles, anticks, heaven and hell, and other curious works; under the staires is a little compleate room called the 'Den of Lyons,' paynted round with lyons and leopards." The great gallery on the second floor was 109 feet 8 inches long, and 21 feet 1 inch broad, "floored with cedar-boards casting a pleasant smell, seeled and bordered with fret-work well-wrought, very well lighted, and waynscotted round with well wrought oake 13 foote 6 inches high, garnished with fillets of gould on the pillars, and starrs and cross patees on the panes, in the middle whereof is a very fayre and large chimnie-piece of black and whyte marble, ingraved with coates of armes adorned with several curious and well-guilded statues of alabaster, with a foot-pace of black and whyte marble." Near this gallery was a room called the Summer Chamber, 45 feet long and 20 broad, floored also with cedar, "well seeled with fret-work, in the middle whereof a picture of good workmanship representing a flying angel." On this floor were several other rooms; among which was one called the Duchess's chamber, another the Countess of Denbigh's chamber, another the Lord Willoughby's, another Mr. Cecil's. These were the highest rooms in the house. "There is one staire

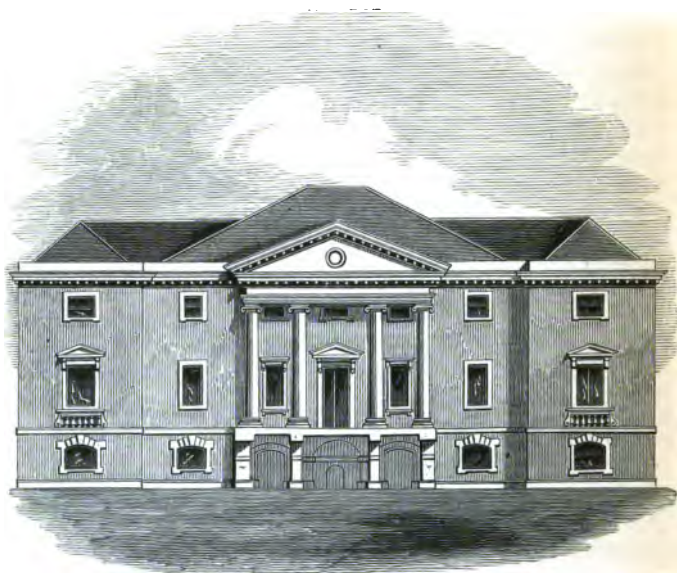
and case called the clock staires, consisting of 65 steps in assent, well lighted; the top whereof is a round turret, covered with blue slate, wherein hangs a bell of good proportion, below which is a clock useful for the whole house. In this staire case on the first assent is placed one large cesterne of lead that serves the whole house and gardens with water." Another stayre was called "the Wardrobe stayres," consisting of eighty-five steps. There was also another of seventy-seven steps. The whole house is said to have been of excellent good brick, "the angles, window staunchions and jawmes all of ashler stone." The leads and battlements of the roof are described as having been a great ornament to the whole house. The surveyors valued the house alone at £150 per annum, and reported the materials to be worth £2,840. 7s. 11d.

In the survey of the gardens, &c., "the orangerie" is said to contain forty-two orange-trees, in boxes, valued at £10 each; "one lemmon tree bearing greate and very large lemmons," valued at £20; "one pomecitron tree," valued at £10; "six pomegranet trees," valued at £3 each; and eighteen young orange-trees, valued at £5 each. The Survey mentions "three great and fayer fig-trees, the branches whereof, by the spreading and dilating of themselves in a very large proportion, but yet in a most decent manner, covered a very greate part of the walls of the south side of the manor-house." In the several gardens, which consisted of mazes, wildernesses, knots, alleys, &c., are mentioned a great variety of fruit-trees, and some shrubs, particularly "a faire bay-tree," valued at £1; and "one very fayer tree called the Irish arbutis, very lovely to looke upon, and worth £1. 10s." Above one thousand fruit-trees are enumerated; among which is every sort now cultivated, except the nectarine. Mention is made of "a muskmilion ground, at the end of the kitchen-garden, trenched, manured, and very well ordered for the growth of muskmillions."

We have spoken of the evident gratification which the royal residents, Charles I. and Henrietta Maria, as well as the Parliamentary General Lambert, felt in the improvement of







WIMBLEDON HOUSE IN 1771.

PRINCIPAL FRONT.

From the Plan in Vitruvius Britannicus.

the house and grounds of Wimbledon, in our short biographies of the lords of the manor. It is not probable, however, that any great alteration was made in the house built by Sir Thomas Cecil, till it fell into the hands of Sir Theodore Janssen. Swift, in one of his letters, still spoke of it as much the finest house about London. But it seems scarcely to have suited the taste of Sir Theodore, who pulled it down, and began to build a new one, perhaps on a smaller scale. The failure of the South-Sea scheme, however, stopped his design, and the estate was purchased by the Duchess of Marlborough. She pulled down what Sir Theodore had built, and erected a new house on the north side of the knoll on which the present mansion stands, after a design of the Earl of Burlington. Not liking the situation, she desired his lordship to give her a design for one on the south side, and having obtained it, she pulled down the former, and built a second, of which a view is given in the fifth volume of the "*Vitruvius Britannicus*." The principal front was an Ionic tetrastyle, of  $\frac{3}{4}$  column. The building was of grey stock bricks, enriched with stone dressings and other ornaments. The principal apartments contained some very capital pictures, particularly the saloon; among which were the stories of "Apollo rewarding Merit," and "Apollo flaying Marsyas," both by Guido.\*

The duchess gave the estate to her grandson, as before mentioned. In the time of his son, on Easter Monday, 1785, it was by some accident set on fire, and burnt down.† The ruins were cleared away, and the grounds levelled and turfed, so as to leave scarcely a trace of its foundation; but some of the offices which had been preserved from the flames, served as an occasional retirement for the family till the present house was finished, from plans given by Mr. Holland, the architect of the parish church, in 1801. It stands in a park, originally seven miles in compass, con-

\* *Vitruv. Brit.*, vol. v.

† The fire is supposed to have originated in the laundry, where the linen was being aired for the family, which was expected to return home on that day after some absence.

taining about 1,200 acres, laid out with great taste by "Capability Browne."\* There is a fine lake of between thirty and forty acres. The property was purchased of the Spencer family in 1846, for £85,000, by J. A. Beaumont, Esq., the present owner. The house has been occupied by the late Duke of Somerset from 1827, and here it was that Sir Joseph Paxton began life as under-gardener to his brother, then head-gardener in these grounds. The present Duke remained as a tenant till 1860, when Mr. Beaumont came to reside here with his family, and still continues amongst us. He has made several alterations round his house and home grounds, but considerable portions of the park have been used for building purposes.

We cannot better conclude this history of the manor-house than by quoting part of a letter from the well-known Hannah More, describing a visit paid in 1780, to the mansion, which had been built by the Duchess of Marlborough.† She says: "The Bishop of St. Asaph and his family invited me to come to Wimbledon Park, Lord Spencer's charming villa, which he always lends to the bishop at this time of the year. I did not think there could have been so beautiful a place within seven miles of London. The park has as much variety of ground, and is as un-Londonish as if it were an hundred miles out; and I enjoyed the violets and the birds more than all the marechal powder and the music of this foolish town. There was a good deal of company at dinner; but we were quite at our ease, and strolled about, or sat in the library, just as we liked. This last amused me much, for it was the Duchess of Marlborough's (old Sarah), and numbers of the books were presents to her from the great authors of her time, whose names she had carefully written in the blank leaves, for I believe she had the pride of being thought learned as well as rich and beautiful."

\* Manning's *Survey*, III. 272. Part of the park is in the parish of Wandsworth.

† *Life of Hannah More*, p. 62.

## CHAPTER V.

## THE CHURCHES, ETC.

Church of the Middle Ages. Church of 1788. Church of 1843. Old stained glass. Lord Wimbledon's Chapel. Monuments in Church to Cecil, Betenson, Ellis, Walter, Lewston, Pitt, Wilbraham, Hudson, Murray, Perry, &c. Churchyard. Monuments to Hopkins family, Savage, Lucan, Quin, Ker, Grosvenor, Simpson, Bankes, Rucker, Eden, Wilberforce, Janssen, De Visme, &c. &c. Christ Church. The Holy Trinity. Dissenting Places of Worship.

## THE CHURCH.

WE have already stated that the church spoken of in Domesday Book as belonging to the manor of Mortelage, or Mortlake, was probably situated at Wimbledon. The mention of a chapel of ease for Mortlake shows that no public building for religious worship could have existed there till 1348 or 1349, and although the exact date of the erection of a church at Putney is lost, it is spoken of as a chapelry of Wimbledon in all the earlier records, and even as late as the time of the inquisition by commissioners appointed under the Protectorate in January, 1658.

No change of site having ever been mentioned, we may decide that a church dedicated to St. Mary has from the first occupied the present position, at the eastern end of the village, near the manor-house.

No part of the church mentioned in Domesday Book now exists. The chancel of the present church is probably of the same date as the one erected some centuries after, at the end of the 13th or the beginning of the 14th century, which stood till the end of the 18th century.

This church consisted of a nave, chancel, south porch, and small bell-turret, surmounted by a light spire.

On the south wall of the south aisle, in Aubrey's time, was this inscription :—

"This church was repaired and beautified in the year An. Do. 1703.

"THOMAS KIGHT, }  
"JOHN FENTON, } Churchwardens."

Over the south door of the entrance was this inscription :—  
1637.

Over the west door :—  
1687.

There are some remains of painted glass nearly coeval with this old church. Amongst these is a figure of a knight in plate armour, with gorget, &c. of mail : he is represented with whiskers ; in his right hand is a spear, with a square banner, on which, as well as upon his shield, is the cross of St. George. His armour seems to place him about the time of Edward III., more nearly resembling that of Sir John de Creke, as depicted on a brass in the church of Westley Waterless, Cambridge, than any others which Gough has given us.\* Sir John died in the reign of Edward III.

The old church having become sadly out of repair, it was determined by vestry (22nd May, 1786) to do something towards its restoration ; but, as the work advanced, it was found impossible satisfactorily to restore the dilapidated structure ; so that eventually almost the whole was rebuilt, after plans (as stated by old inhabitants and by county histories) of Mr. Holland, the architect of the present Manor-house, though the name of Mr. John Johnson, as architect and surveyor, is always given in the vestry reports.

\* *Sepulchra Monumenta*, i. 142. See also Fairholt's *Costume in England*, p. 163. From the reign of Edward I. till towards the latter part of Edward III. we find *ailettes* (little wings) rising from the shoulders. We must therefore place our knight after they ceased to be represented. In the same window with this knight were originally the figures of St. John the Baptist and St. Christopher.



**ST. MARY'S, WIMBLEDON (14th Century?)**

Previous to its Demolition in 1786.



This new building was Grecian. The chancel, however, being under the control of the Court of Arches, could not be interfered with. Early Perpendicular could not be expected to harmonize with Grecian; so the fine old chancel must be shut out from the rest of the building by the erection of a semicircular apse, running in the form of a niche into the chancel. Into this apse were crowded the altar, *above which towered the pulpit*, the reading-desk, and the clerk's desk!! Above the altar were the *lights* or *windows* of Lord Spencer's *pew* or *box*,\* which occupied an upper story formed in the eastern half of the old chancel, the lower story being used as a robing-room!! The nave was supported by columns painted to represent Sienna marble, the capitals being gilded. The ceiling was vaulted and ornamented. There were two side aisles, over which ran galleries with roofs domed into three divisions, arched in front, the four corners of each dome having medallions in *chiaro oscuro*, of Adam, Noah, the Apostles, &c. &c. The whole was built of grey stock brick, and formed an oblong of 48 feet by 44 feet. At the west end of the church was a circular projection, from which rose a square wooden tower with Gothic pinnacles of artificial stone, and a taper spire covered with copper.† The whole expense of the building was £2,194. 10s. 2d.; of which £934. 4s. was raised by subscription, the rest by rates on the parish. There was not any brief. The building was opened for divine service July 7th, 1788, when the temporary gallery, says an old inhabitant, erected for the choir and musicians, amounting in all to thirty-eight, gave way, and fell with a crash into the church, causing several severe bruises, and injuring some of the musical instruments, but resulting in no damage of a very serious nature.

The pulpit was removed from its towering position before the a tar in 1812, at the request of the Rev. Mr. Pritchard,

\* It is not easy to find words which can describe such a building as the un-ecclesiastical erection of 1788.

† This spire was the gift of William Pitt, Esq., of Chapel Street, Westminster.—*Vestry Reports*.



who was appointed curate by Mr. Randolph, and was placed in the position which it now occupies. In 1818 the semi-circular apse was taken away, and the old chancel thrown into the building; two hideous galleries being erected on the north and south sides of the chancel, the old rafters being lathed and plastered to represent a ceiling.

The church remained in this state till 1843, when the present handsome building was erected, from the plans, and under the superintendence of Messrs. Scott and Moffat. It is in the Perpendicular style of Pointed architecture, consisting of a nave and aisles, with a well-proportioned square tower of four stories at the west end, surmounted by a lofty spire and weathercock.\* The walls and buttresses are faced with flint; the dressings, window and door-frames, being all of stone. There is a western window, underneath which is the chief entrance, the other being at the south porch. The windows in the sides of the church have three principal divisions, each cinquefoil-headed, with smaller lights in the clerestory above. The nave is separated from the aisles by light piers, from which spring five pointed arches on each side. The framework of the roof is of oak; the rafters are supported by brackets resting upon corbels. Galleries extend over the aisles and west end of the nave; and above the western gallery is an organ-loft, containing a fine-toned organ by Walker,† which was presented by the late James Courthorpe Peache, Esq., of Belvedere House, September, 1842. At the same time the royal arms in artificial stone,

\* There are three bells. The oldest is dedicated to St. Bartholomew; the next bears date 157; the fourth figure being destroyed; it has this inscription: "Prayse ye the Lorde." The latest is inscribed, "Richard Phelps made me, 1715."

† A plan has been proposed which it is to be hoped will ere long be carried out, for removing the organ from its present position into a chamber to be built on the site of the present vestry, thereby throwing open the west window, which is now completely hidden, and bringing the choir into their proper position as leaders in the musical portion of our services.

which are over the chancel arch, were presented by Mrs. Marryat, of Wimbledon House. The font, which is of stone and octagonal in form, was given by H. Bowden, Esq.

The chancel was restored in 1860 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and in 1861 the reredos was erected from plans given by D. Brandon, Esq. The window at the east end, erected by Miss Peache, to the memory of her father, the late James Courthorpe Peache, Esq., is divided into six compartments, three above and three below. In the centre is Our Saviour on the cross; on his right (in the north compartment) his mother, the Holy Mary; on his left (in the south), the Apostle St. John. Underneath these, in the north, is the Adoration of the Magi; in the middle is the Agony in the Garden; in the south is the Angel at the Sepulchre. Appropriate texts run beneath each of the lights.

The small mortuary chapel, on the south side of the chancel, which was erected by Lord Wimbledon as a burying-place for himself and his family, was probably completed a short time before his death, which took place November 16, 1638. It is lighted by a south window, and some small perforations containing the arms of Cecil, with those families into which his daughter married, on stained glass. Fragments of armour hang on the walls, and from the centre of the roof hangs a viscount's coronet over a handsome altar-tomb of black marble, round the ledge of which is the following inscription, in capitals :—

“Here resteth Sir EDWARD CECILL, Knight, Lo. Cecil, and Baron of Putney, Viscount Wimbledon of Wimbledon, Third sone of Thomas Earle of Exeter, and Dorothy Nevill, of the Coheyes of the Lo. Nevill of Latimer, and Grandchild of the Lo. Treasurer Burghley.”

On the north side in capitals, is this inscription :—

“Read above first.

“Who followed the Warres in the Netherlands, five and thirty years, and passed the Degrees of Captaine of Foote and Horse.

Collonell of Foote and Collonell of the English Horse, at the Battell of Newport in Flanders."

On the south side is this inscription :—

"Who was Admiral, and Lo. Marshall, Lieutenant-Generall, and Generall against y<sup>e</sup> King of Spaine, and Emperor in the service of King James, and K. Charles the first,—and at his returne was made Counsellor of State and Warre, and Lo. Lieutenant of this County of Surrey and Captaine and Governor of Portsmouth."

\* At the east end is the following inscription :—

"And after so many Travels returned to this patient & humble Mother Earth, from whence he came with assured Hope in his Saviour Christ, to rise again to Glory Everlasting."

At the west end is this inscription :—

"Read this last.

"His first wife was THEODOSIA NOWELL, of the House of Nowell, and Viscount Campden, by the Mother, of the House of the Lo. Harrington, who dyed in Holland, and lyeth buried in the Cathedral Church of Utrecht, by whom he had 4 daughters here mentioned in this Chapple, with their Husbands. His second wife was DIANA DRURY, here interred, one of the coheyles of the House of Drury, and by the Mother Descended from the Antient Family of the Dukes of Bucks and Stafford, and had onely one daughter by her, named Anne Cecill."

On the walls of the chapel are small marble tablets, with the following inscriptions. On the south side :—

"His first wife, who in this tomb is named," and "His second wife."

On the east side :—

"MR. JAMES FINES, son and heyr of the Lo. Viscount Say and Sele, and his wife FRANCES CECIL."

"The Lo. FRANCIS WILLOUGHBY of Parrom, and his wife ELIZABETH CECIL."

On the west side :—

"Sir CHRISTOPHER WRAY, Knight, heyer to the Drurys ; and his wife ALBINIA CECIL.

"Dorothy Cecil, unmarried as yet."

On the ground are flat gravestones, with these inscriptions.

Arms at top.—Argent, a fess gules, in chief, a lion passant gardant sable, all within a bordure engrailed ermine. Crests on a wreath, a lion's head, coupé sable, collared Argent. Motto, "Que sera sera."

"Here lyeth RICHARD BETENSON, Esq., son of Sir Richard Betenson, of Scadbary in the county of Kent, Knight and Baronett. He married Albinia, one of the daughters of Sir Christopher Wray, of Ashley, in the county of Lincoln, Kn<sup>t</sup>., who married Albinia, one of the daughters and heirs of the Lord Wimbledon. He was married 20 years and 4 months, and left five children living. He departed this life in the 45<sup>th</sup> year of his age, 1677."

Arms at top.—Ermine, a lion rampant gardant, impaling three lions rampant.

"Here lyeth the body of the Hon<sup>l</sup>. FRANCES ELLIS, widow, youngest daughter of James Fiennes, late Viscount Say and Sele, and Frances Cecill his wife, one of the co-heirs of the late Viscount Wimbleton, who was married to Andrew Ellis, of Alrey, in the county of Flint, Esq., and having by him one daughter and heir, she departed this life the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, in the 53<sup>rd</sup> year of her age, and in the year of our Lord 1684."

In the centre of the chancel we have another member of the Betenson family :—

"Here resteth JANE BETENSON, daughter of Sir Richard Betenson, of Laver de la Haye, in Essex, K<sup>t</sup>., by his wife Anne, daughter of Sir William Monyns, of Waldershare, in Kent, Baronet. She dyed on the 5th day of May, 1639, having lived to the age of xj years and 10 months."

Arms at top.—1st and 4th, Or, a fess Gu. in chief, a lion passant Sable, within a bordure engrailed Az. ; 2nd and 3rd, a bend Ermine, between two lions rampant.\*

\* There is a slight variation in the coats of arms.—*Vid.* Manning, III. 278.

A handsome old mural monument on the north side of the chancel bears the following inscription:—

“Here lyes buried WILLIAM WALTER, Esquire, born in Thynder [Thingden?] in the county of Northampton, but matching in marriage with Katherine Lewston, sister and heire of Humfrey Lewston, by whom he was possest of a convenient seate and porcion of inheritance in this towne, came to inhabit here, where he, together with the said Katherine, hath continewed and kept howse with good reputacion by the space of 50 yeres, in which tyme he had issue by her twoe sons, William and Robert, and 5 daughters, Jaquet, Margaret, Briget, Mildred, and Susan, whereof there are living, William, Robert, and Margaret, married all, and possessed of children, the rest being dead in their yonger years, and here also most of them buried. He departed this lyfe the 10 day of September 1587, having lived about 78 years.”

Second compartment:—

“KATHERINE WALTER, wife of the said William, and daughter of Robert Lewston Esquire, and Lettice Alanson, his wife, being the youngest of the children of the said Robert and Lettice, overlived them all, and came to be possessed of the said Lewston's lands in this toun. From her infancy until her marriage shee was browght upp in right honorable and vertuous places, where by her good instruccions and examples of her governours, she attained to that habite and moderacion of life and manners, as bred to her selfe the praise and good opinion of all sortes, and to her husband no mean reputation. She was married to the said William the 16 yeare of her age, with whom she lyved 50 yeares, and remained a widow after hym 4 moneths and odd dayes, departing owt of this life, most godly, the 20 daye of January, 1587, being of the age of 66 yeares.”

“Obdormit Domino situs hâc *Walterus* in urnâ,  
Antiquâ virtute senex, servator honesti,  
Integer & prudens, observantissimus æqui,  
In commune bonus, pius, insons, fidus, apertus,  
Qui longam vitam fælici fine peregit,  
Et sine fine Deo, victurus adivit Olympum.  
Conjux fida suum *Catharina* sequuta maritum,  
Contumulata jacet, matrona pudica, modesta,

Sancta, benigna, gravis, virtutis maxima cultrix,  
 Fœmine digna Deo, proavis dignissima claris,  
 Illa viro felix, fœlicior ille maritâ,  
 Quos ut junxit amor terris, Deus æthere jungit."

Arms at the top.—Az. a fess dancette between three eagles displayed Argent, impaling Gu. an amulet between three battle-axes Argent.

Near the Walter monument is a small tablet:—

"PHILIP LEWSTON married one Margaret, by whom he had issue, Edward, Richard, and Robert; Edward and Richard died without issue. Robert tooke to his first wife, Margaret, daughter of John Wideslade, Esq., by whom he had issue living to be married, Ales, who married Edw<sup>d</sup>. Rowse, of Brosiard in Suffolk. And his second wife, was Lettis Alanson, by whom he had issue, Humfrey, Johane, Katharine, and others. Humfrey died without issue unmarried, Johan married Robert Long, of Edwardes Towne in Suffolk. And Katherine married William Walter of Thingdon, in the county of Northampton, Esq<sup>r</sup>."

Underneath the present vestry, on the south side of the chancel, is the vault of the Pitt family. Herein are interred:—

Arms at top.—A fess cheque, Or and Azure, between three bezants Or; Crest, a crane proper beaked and membered, Or, holding his right foot upon an anchor erect proper.

"THOMAS PITT, of London, Merchant, born at Ilminster, in Somersetshire, died 28 April, 1699, aged 57. WILLIAM PITT, died 15 May, 1732, aged 57. JANE PITT, died 21 January, 1745, aged 44. FRANCES PITT, died 13 June, 1747, aged 68. THOMAS PITT, died 19 April, 1761, aged 45. FRANCES PITT, died 28 August, 1769, aged 65. JOHN PITT, died 8 March, 1775, aged 59. MARIA PITT, died 18 October, 1784, aged 66. ANNE PITT, died 21 March, 1789, aged 75."\*

\* With this family the author is distantly connected. His great-great-aunt, Mary Bartlett, d. of William Bartlett, Esq., of East

The following monument, originally erected in the chancel, is now in the nave :—

“Hic jacet RICHARDUS WYNN,\* de Gwider in comitatu Caernarvon, Mil. et Baronet. Thesaurarius necnon Consiliarius Honoratissé Principis Henriettæ Mariæ Reginae, qui linea paternali ex illustri illâ familiâ et antiquissimâ stirpe Britanniae North Walliae principum oriundus, denatus 19 die Julij 1649, ætat. 61.”

Arms.—1. Vert, three eagles displayed in fesse, Or. 2. Gules, three lions passant, Argent. 3. Sable, a chevron between three fleurs-de-lis, Argent. 4. Sable, three boys coupéd proper, hair gold, round the neck a serpent entwined proper.

In the nave we find :—

Arms.—Az., three heads wavy ; Az., a crescent for difference.

“Here lyeth interred the Body of RALPH WILBRAHAM, of London, Merchant, Son of Tho. Wilbraham, of Namptwich, Esq<sup>r</sup>., who deceased the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1665.

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Lambrook, Somerset, and great-niece of Atkins Abraham, Esq., of Purtington, was married in 1765 to the Rev. William Palmer, who succeeded his father in the vicarage of Yarcombe, was vicar of Chardstock, and was presented by the late Stephen Pitt, Esq., to the rectory of Cricket-Malherby, near Ilminster, Somerset. Their son, the late Rev. William Palmer, D.D., J.P., father of the present Princesse de Ponthieu, married, secondly, Mary, only d. of Stephen Pitt, Esq., of Cricket House, Somerset, and Camden House, Kensington. The present representative of the family, G. Pitt, Esq., still resides at Cricket House, near Ilminster, Somerset.

\* Sir Richard Wynn was gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Charles I., and attended him in the romantic journey into Spain, to visit his intended consort. Sir Richard drew up an account of his travels, which was printed amongst other scarce tracts by Mr. Thomas Hearne. He died at Wimbledon, in the Manor-house, which he held as trustee for Queen Henrietta Maria.—Pennant's *Tour in Wales*, II. 153; and *Archæologia*, x. 447.

"In remembrance of whome, his Deare Wife M<sup>rs</sup>. Anna Wilbraham hath caused this Inscription, and hath also given to this Church of Wimbledon, a Callis and Cover of Silver, to have this Place preserved for her Selfe."

West of the above :—

"ROBERTUS SQUIBB, Armiger,  
Obiit decimo die Septembris, 1694."

In the nave are also these :—

"To the memory of PETER SHAW, M.D., Physician in ordinary to their Majesties George the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and George the 3<sup>rd</sup>, who died March the 15<sup>th</sup>, 1763, aged 69 years."

(NOTE.—He translated Boerhaave's *Chemistry* in 4to, and *Hoffman on Mineral Waters* in 8vo.)

"SUSANNAH HUDSON, daughter of General Joseph and Mary Hudson, died 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1773, aged 22 years all but two days. General JOSEPH HUDSON departed this life the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 1773, in the 83<sup>rd</sup> year of his age. MARY HUDSON, wife of the above General Hudson, departed this life 7<sup>th</sup> July 1780, in the 68<sup>th</sup> year of her age. Colonel WILLIAM HUDSON, son of the above General Joseph and Mary Hudson, died September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1789, aged 58. CATHARINE, daughter of the above General Joseph Hudson, died 25<sup>th</sup> June 1802, aged 60 years."

Crest, a martlet, Az, wings Or, holding a sprig.

Arms, per chevron crenellé, Or and Az ; three martlets countercharged on the breast of each, a fret, those in chief Arg., that in base of the second ; impaling barry of six Arg. and Az. a bend fusilly Gu.

Aubrey gives these now lost :—

"On a brass a figure of a Priest holding a chalice, and round the ledge of the stone, 'Hic jacet Dominus Willelmus de . . . .  
quondam Rector istius Ecclesie de Wimbledon, qui obiit . . . .  
ccclxi cujus a'i'e propicietur misericors Deus.'"



Also on a brass plate in the middle of the chancel :—

"Sub hoc lapide tegitur Ma. THOMAS MYLLYNCE olim Rector hujus Ecclesiæ qui obiit tercio die Novembris, anno Domini MCCCCXL. Intercede qui hac transis ut illius anima regnet cum superis."

On the south wall has been lately erected :—

"Sacred to the Honored and Beloved Memory of General The Hon<sup>l</sup>. Sir HENRY MURRAY, K.C.B., Fourth son of David second Earl of Mansfield, by the Hon<sup>l</sup>. Louisa Cathcart. Born August 1784."

"Served in Naples, Sicily, and Calabria in 1806-7. Accompanied the expedition to Egypt March 1807, and was present as A.D.C. to the Hon<sup>l</sup>. General Meade, at the attack on Alexandria ; siege and storming of Rosetta, and on every other occasion when our troops were engaged. Served in Walcheren in 1809 at the landing, the siege, and surrender of Flushing, remaining till the island was evacuated by the British army. Went in command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars to the Peninsula, January 1813, was disabled while crossing the Eslar, by his horse falling with him, after which he commanded the Regiment at the action of Morales de Toro. Was compelled to be some time in hospital at Palencia from an abscess in his knee. Served in the campaign of 1815, including the battle of Quatre Bras. Commanded the rear regiment of the column of the retreat during the following day ; And at the battle of Waterloo he led the 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars in the brilliant charge of Sir Hussey Vivian's brigade at the conclusion of the action.

"Commanded the Western District ten years, was sixty years in the service.

"After a long and severe illness, borne with the most Christian resignation and fortitude, he died at Wimbledon on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 1860, deeply lamented by his family and by all those who had known his excellent qualities."

"The above Inscription is on a tablet erected by special permission in the Garrison Chapel of the Citadel of Plymouth, near the monument of his distinguished and beloved son, Captain Arthur Stormont Murray, Rifle brigade, who was mortally wounded whilst gallantly leading his company against the warlike Boers, at Bloem Plaats, at the Cape of Good Hope, August 1848, aged 28 years.

"To whose memory also this is inscribed by his affectionate Mother, August 1862."

On the east wall of the north aisle :—

"Beneath this Tablet are deposited the Remains of ELIZABETH LADY ALVA, daughter of William Hairstones, of Craigs, Esquire, in the county of Dumfries. She was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August, 1717, and was twice married ; First, to William Maxwell of Preston, Esquire, in the Stewartry of Kirkcubright, by whom she had issue Two daughters, Mary Countess of Sutherland, born 1740, and Willielma, Viscountess Glenorchy, born 1741. Secondly, to the Honourable Charles Erskine of Alva, the Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland, whom she also survived.

"She died in London on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 1806, in the ninetieth year of her age. This tablet was erected to her memory by her granddaughter, Elizabeth Marchioness of Stafford and Countess of Sutherland, as a testimony of gratitude and affection."

In the same vault are interred the remains of three infant sons of the Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford.

[Erected 1827.]

On the east side of the south aisle :—

"Erected by the Fox Club to the memory of JAMES PERRY, Esq<sup>r</sup>., Proprietor and Editor of the *Morning Chronicle*, in testimony of the zeal, courage, and ability with which he advocated the principles of civil and religious liberty, and of the talent and integrity by which he mainly contributed to convert the daily press into a great moral instrument, always devoted by him to the support of the oppressed, and the promotion of public and private virtue.

"He was born the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 1736,

And died the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1821."

Near this, and on the north-eastern side of the nave, are some monuments to members of the Wright family, once resident in this parish :—

"Sac<sup>d</sup> Mem<sup>y</sup> ROBERT WRIGHT, Esq<sup>r</sup>., & LUCY his wife. Also to MARIANNE LUCY, his granddaughter, only daughter of Colonel Archer, 16<sup>th</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Dragoons, and wife of the Hon<sup>l</sup>. Walter Wrottesley."

Above the monument to Mr. Perry, on the gallery level, we find modern monuments to James Courthorpe Peach, Esq., of Belvedere House, his wife and son; one to Whitelock Nicholl, M.D.

On the north side we have some mural monuments to the Currie family; also one to Justice Park :—

“ Sacred to the Memory of

The Hon<sup>l</sup>. Sir JAMES ALLAN PARK, D.C.L., F.S.A., one of Her Majesty's Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, who died Dec<sup>r</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1838, aged 75 years.

“ This tablet was erected by the inhabitants of Wimbledon, where he resided thirty-two years, as a tribute of respect for his high Christian character, exemplified in a life of devout piety towards God and active beneficence toward man.”

Near this we find a monument to Sir William Beaumarice Rush, Knt., who resided fifty-five years in this parish.

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#### CHURCHYARD.

. On the right hand of the gate, at the entrance of the churchyard, is a large monument erected by Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Esq., of Painshill, in this county, for the interment of his family. The following are buried in this vault : \*—

1. Mrs. ELIZABETH BOND, wife of Benjamin Bond, Jun<sup>r</sup>., Esq., of Soho Square, London, who died 3<sup>d</sup> January, 1777, in the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of her age.

To record her virtues on a mouldering stone will be a vain attempt. Know, oh Reader ! they are registered elsewhere.

\* The present inscription on the tomb is seen below. The Hopkins family have another vault at the east end of the churchyard.

2. ELIZABETH CHAMBERLAINE BOND, only daughter by his first marriage, of Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Esq., of Painshill, in this County. She died 11<sup>th</sup> July 1781, aged 11 years. At this early period she gained the affection of all who knew her, being an exact counterpart of her deceased mother, patient in sufferings, and fearful only of giving pain to others in her last moments.

3. BENJAMIN BOND, Esq., of Clapham, in this County, who died the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1785, after a short illness of four days only, in the 64<sup>th</sup> year of his age. Truly lamented by all who knew him, the most affectionate parent and sincere friend.

4. MRS. ELIZABETH BOND, wife of Benjamin Bond, Esq., of Clapham : in the enjoyment of apparent health, she was on a sudden removed from this state of trial on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 1787, in the 65<sup>th</sup> year of her age, to receive her reward for a patient resignation to her Master's will during repeated sickness, to which, from a tender constitution, she had many years been subject.

5. MRS. ALICIA BOND HOPKINS, wife of Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Esq., of Painshill, in this County. Having been blessed with a strong constitution and superior understanding, she enjoyed uninterrupted health till the 37<sup>th</sup> year of her age, when she died of a rapid decline on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1788.

6. BENJAMIN BOND HOPKINS, Esq., of Painshill, in this County, who died 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1794, in the 49<sup>th</sup> year of his age. He laboured under a complication of diseases for a long period with the resignation and piety of a true Christian. His constant study was to relieve the distressed, and promote the happiness of those around him.

7. RICHARD, the eldest son of Richard and Caroline\* Mansel Philipps, who, although he died at the early age of seven years and two months, on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1806, lived long enough, with the aid of strong natural sense, to understand the dictates of religion, which he implicitly obeyed by performing all its duties. He was affectionate to his parents, charitable to the poor, and kind

\* Caroline Mansel Philipps was the only surviving child of the above Benjamin Bond Hopkins.

to every one. Heaven lifts its everlasting portals high, and bids the pure in heart to behold their God.

Excepting an inscription to Benjamin Bond Hopkins and his wife, we find at present only these on the large tomb :—

“Beneath this tomb are the remains of RICHARD MANSEL PHILIPPS, Esq., of Coedgain, Carmarthenshire, second son of the late Sir William Mansel, 7th Baronet, of Iscoed, in the same County, who died 28th August, 1844, aged 76 years.

“Also CAROLINE, his wife, only child of Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Esq., who died 14th September, 1850, aged 76 years.

“And their children, RICHARD, who died 6th January, 1806, aged 7 years.

“FRANCES MATILDA, who died 12th June, 1806, aged 4 years.”

And HARRIET, wife of G. C. Carpenter, Esq., of Ford, Northumberland, who died 1st August, 1838, aged 39 years.

Near this tomb we find the graves of the Terry family, residents here for a considerable time.

On a marble tablet, inserted in a large tomb still on the south side of the churchyard, on the north side of the tomb :—

“Here lyeth the body of M<sup>rs</sup>. MARY SAVAGE, relict of Richard Savage, Esq<sup>r</sup>., of Dorsetshire, and daughter of Alderman Bowes, of London, who departed this life the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1726, aged 70 years. Also M<sup>rs</sup>. MARY MACKPHEADRIS, daugh<sup>r</sup>. of the above M<sup>rs</sup>. Mary Savage, who died 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1760, aged 66.”

On the south side :—

“Here also lieth the body of M<sup>rs</sup>. MARTHA IVATT, daughter of Richard and Mary Savage, and relict of Murthwaite Ivatt, Esq<sup>r</sup>., late of this Parish, who died October the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1770, in the 80<sup>th</sup> year of her age. Also SUSANNAH NICHOLAS, died January 26. 1799, aged 86.”

On the east end :—

“MARTHA STAINTON, died March 7, 1808, aged 60.”

On the west end are these arms in lozenge :—six lions rampant, 3, 2, and 1 ; impaling Ermine, 3 bonds in fess.

Near this is a column :—

“MARGARET Countess of LUCAN, widow of Charles Earl of Lucan, and daughter and co-heiress of James Smyth, of St. Audries, in the county of Somerset, Esq., and of Grace Dyke, of Pixton, in the county of Devon, his wife. She died in 1814, in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of her age. Beloved, Respected, and Lamented.”

“LOUISA BINGHAM, second daughter of Charles, Earl of Lucan, and of Margaret his wife. She died in 1784, in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of her age.”

Near this a tomb :—

“Sacred to the Memory of GEORGIANA CHARLOTTE, the beloved and excellent wife of Lord George Quin, second son of Thomas, Marquis of Headfort, K.F., younger daughter of George John, Earl Spencer, K.G., and of Lavinia his wife.”

“It pleased God to call her out of this transitory world on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 1823, in the 29<sup>th</sup> year of her age, after many sufferings borne with unrepining meekness and Christian fortitude.

“Sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.”

“In the same vault is interred MARY, the infant daughter of the above, who died April 14th, 1823, aged nine weeks.”

Near the tower of the church is a remarkable instance of longevity.

“In Memory of THOMAS TAYLOR, who died Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1827, aged 108 years. Also SARAH, his wife, who died July 4, 1834, aged 97 years.”

Near the south wall of the Churchyard, on a marble tablet on a raised tomb—on the north side :—

“Here lyeth the body of M<sup>rs</sup>. MARTHA KER, wife of M<sup>r</sup>. David Ker, of London, Merchant, who departed this life the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1767, aged 48 years, daughter of M<sup>rs</sup>. Mary Mackpheadris.”

On the east end :—

"Here lyeth **MAGDALEN KER**, wife of **David Ker**, of London, and of Portlao, in Ireland, who departed this life 14 July, 1785, aged 24 years."

On the south side is :—

"Here also lyeth the body of the aforesaid **M<sup>r</sup>. DAVID KER**, who departed this life the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1770, æt. 60 years, son of **David Ker**, of Ballemena in Ireland, and Laird of Munford in Scotland."

On the west side :—

"**DAVID KER's vault.**"

On an altar tomb—north side :—

"Here lies Field Marshal **THOMAS GROSVENOR**, who died at Richmond on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 1851, aged 86.

"As a soldier he served his King and country abroad with honour and distinction. His kind and benevolent disposition endeared him to all who knew him, especially to his family and near connections, by whom he was fondly cherished. His faith and trust in his Redeemer were ever steadfast throughout his life, and grew stronger as his bodily strength decayed. He died in peace, beloved and lamented."

"Vale. A.G."

"Also of **ANNA**, widow of the above, and daughter of **G. Wilbraham, Esq<sup>r</sup>**, of Delamere, co. of Cheshire, who died at Richmond on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 1864, in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of her age."

On the west side of the same tomb :—

"To the memory of **M<sup>rs</sup>. ELIZABETH GROSVENOR**, the beloved wife of General Grosvenor, and daughter of Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bart., of Normanton, in the county of Rutland, who died 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1830, aged 50 years."

On the north side of a raised tombstone :—

"**THOMAS WALKER, Esq<sup>r</sup>**, died XXII October MDCCXLVIII, in the eighty-fourth year of his age."

On the south side of the same is inscribed (in small letters) :—

“On the accession of his late Majesty K. Geo. I<sup>st</sup> he was put in Commission of the Customs, in which he continued until the year 1732, when he was appointed Surveyor General of his Majesty's Land Revenue, which office he held to his death, and discharged both these trusts with integrity. He was an intimate friend of Sir Robert Walpole, and his portrait was introduced in a picture at Strawberry Hill.”

On the east side is a carved sun in glory.

On a raised tombstone we read :—

“In a vault under this stone is interred the body of MARY SOUTHHOUSE, wife of William Southhouse, Esq., of this Parish. She died 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1789, in the 70<sup>th</sup> year of her age, and in the 49<sup>th</sup> of her marriage. Also the remains of WILLIAM SOUTHHOUSE, Esq<sup>r</sup>.,\* near 50 years an inhabitant of this Parish, who died March 12, 1795, in the 90<sup>th</sup> year of his age, after a long life spent in the performance of every Christian duty. He expired without a groan, and died as he had lived, in peace with God and with all mankind. ‘The hoary head is a crown of glory if it be found in the way of righteousness.’—Prov. XVI. 31.”

At the east end of the churchyard, in front of a raised tomb :—

“In memory of JAMES PERRY, Captain in the 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Native Infantry on the Bengal Establishment, and Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General of the Invalids at Chunar; a station to which he was appointed as a reward for his bravery in the assault and capture of Agra, where he was severely wounded. He died at Chunar on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1806, aged 29 years, deeply and universally regretted. Also of JOHN PERRY, who died 21 August 1806, aged 22 months. They were both sons of James Perry, Esq<sup>r</sup>., of Merton,† in this Parish.”

\* Mr. Southhouse had been an eminent attorney in Lime Street, London.

† Mr. Perry's house was in Wimbledon, but near Merton. See Chap. XI.



In Aubrey's time was visible a tomb with this inscription :—

“ Here under lie NICHOLAS SIMPSON  
And Ric<sup>d</sup>., who was his eldest Soon,  
That took Eliz. White to wife,  
And had 12 Children in her Life.  
As in their Dais they were but one,  
So here inter'd lye under this Stone,  
Which was laid by his Sone John, the Younger,  
Sworn Servant of his Majestie's Chambers,  
Who deceased Ano. Dom. . . . .  
Jos. Simpson posuit pietatis, &c.”

There still remains the following, though beneath the level of the soil, at the east end of the churchyard :—

“ Here lyeth the Body of that zealous Minister of Christ, Mr. J. SIMPSON, who haveing fulfilled his Ministry, blest in the conversion of very many Soules in the City of London to Christ, put off his Tabernacle the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 1662.”

On an octagon stone sunk into the wall, at the east end of the churchyard. Arms, Ar. a bend, Az. charged with three cinquefoils; Or, Crest a talbot passant. Motto—*Prodesse quam conspici.*

“ M. S. JOHANNIS\* et SOPHIE COOKSEY, ille ex antiquâ stirpe in Com<sup>ta</sup>. Vigorn<sup>ia</sup>. A. M. Coll<sup>eg</sup>. Merton<sup>ia</sup>. Oxon et R.S. socius. Per 40<sup>a</sup> fere annos hujusce Gregis Pastor sedulus. Obiit Jan<sup>ua</sup>. 26<sup>o</sup>, anno 1777, æt<sup>as</sup>. 70<sup>o</sup>. Illa priore connubio Edw<sup>ardi</sup>. Winnington Baron<sup>is</sup>. Mater, obiit Feb<sup>rua</sup>rii. 22<sup>o</sup>, anno 1770, æt<sup>as</sup>. 63<sup>o</sup>. Ambo integri et amabiles vixerunt. Eheu H. C. Frater amans P. P.”

On a flat gravestone, at the east end of the churchyard, was this inscription :—

“ Here lyeth the Body of GILBERT SMYTH, M<sup>r</sup>. of Arts sometime of Christs-Colledge in Cambridge, who languishing under a deep Consumption, more than 30 Yeares together, dyed of that Disease at M<sup>r</sup>. Arnold, an Apothecary's in Tower-Street, London, the 9<sup>th</sup> of

\* Mr. Cooksey published some occasional sermons.

July 1674, Aged about 60, and desired to be buried in this Church-Yard.

“*Moerente amico fidissimo*

“*E. M.*”

At the east side of the churchyard :—

“In a vault beneath this tomb are deposited the remains of M<sup>rs</sup>. (SUSANNAH) BANKES, of Roehampton, who departed this life December 24, 1764, aged 84. And of her son Sir HENRY BANKES, K<sup>t</sup> Alderman of London, who died July 9, 1774, aged 64 ; leaving issue one daughter, since married to Sir Brownlow Cust, Bart.\* This tomb was erected to the memories of the deceased by Lady Bankes, widow of Sir Henry Bankes. Lady BANKES departed this life February 4, 1806, aged 78.” Her remains are also deposited in this vault underneath.

A pyramid with an iron railing, a vault underneath :—

“JOHN ANTHONY RUCKER, Esq.,

Obiit May 24, 1804, ætatis suæ 85.”

On the east side of the churchyard on a raised tomb is inscribed :—

“To the memory of THOMAS EDEN, Esq., of this Parish, who died the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 1806, aged 60 years.†

“Also of MARIANNE his wife.”

On the north side of the churchyard originally was a tomb with this inscription :—

“In memory of WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Esq.,‡ of this Parish, who died 27 December, 1777, aged 56 years. Also the body of HANNAH WILBERFORCE, who died 27 December, 1788, aged 64 years. Was widow of the above-named William Wilberforce, Esq.”

\* Afterwards Lord Brownlow, 1776.

† Mr. Eden was brother to Lord Auckland, and was a Virginia merchant.

‡ He was uncle of the celebrated philanthropist (see Chap. XI.), and therefore great-uncle to the present Bishop of Oxford.

A plain slab, with the simple initials, "W. W. 1777," and "H. W. 1788," is all that now covers this grave.

Near the above is this tomb:—

"This vault contains the remains of the body of Sir THEODORE JANSEN, Bart., once Lord of this Manor, who died in 1748. Likewise Sir ABRAHAM JANSEN, Bart., who died in 1763.\*

On the north-west side of the churchyard is a monument erected to Gilbert Stuart Newton, Esq., R.A. Died Aug. 5th, 1835.

On the north side of the church is a large pyramid enclosed by iron rails.

"Sepulchrum hoc Gerardus de Visme, pro se et suis extruxit."

Besides the tombs and vaults thus mentioned, we find those of many other old families once settled here; as, Meyrick, Paterson, Manning, Trewman, Oliphant, Rose, Lancaster, Marryat, &c., and of many too whose representatives are still moving amongst us. There are also new tombs, some of them more simply beautiful than the costly monuments of an early date, covering the remains of those whom we of quite a later generation in Wimbledon have known and loved. We will not disturb the sod yet fresh; in silence we pass them by.

"Far better they should sleep awhile  
Within the Church's shade,  
Nor wake, until new heaven, new earth,  
Meet for their new immortal birth,  
For their abiding-place be made,

"Than wander back to life, and lean  
On our frail love once more.

---

\* See p. 56.

'Tis sweet, as year by year we lose  
Friends out of sight, in faith to muse  
How grows in Paradise our store."—

*Christian Year*—Burial of the Dead.

To meet the increasing wants of the parish, a church was built in the western portion, near Cottenham Park, which was consecrated in August, 1859.

Christ Church consists of a nave with north and south aisles, a quasi-tower appropriated as the chancel proper, with a sanctuary extending beyond it, and with north and south arcades communicating with bisected transepts. The style is Early Middle-pointed. It is built of ragstone, with all the dressed works of Bath stone. Externally the tower stands east of the nave, with a circular turret, containing the stairs to the belfry, and the sanctuary east of it is clustered on the north and south by the transepts, double gabled,\* against which the two aisles terminate, the roofs intersecting. There are north and south porches. The church receives nearly six hundred worshippers.

A third church was built in 1862, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. This is situated in a central position in the southern portion of the parish, beyond the railway. It consists of a handsome nave and chancel, with a south aisle. It is capable of enlargement, by the addition of a north aisle at some future time. At present there is merely a bell-turret, but the foundations for a suitable tower and spire at the south-west angle are already formed. This church accommodates at present about 536, including school children.

There are some small chapels belonging to different Dissenting bodies in Wimbledon: a Wesleyan Chapel, South Road, Ridgeway; Baptist Chapel, Church Street; a Primitive Methodist Chapel, High Street.

\* This was the original design; the south transept, however, has been enlarged, and its character materially altered.

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE LIVING.

Originally a Rectory. Exchange between Henry VIII. and the Dean and Chapter of Worcester. Appointment of Perpetual Curates for Wimbledon, Putney, and Mortlake. Archbishop Laud attempts to improve the living. Contemplated change of the Parliamentary Commissioners. The Parsonage-House.

WIMBLEDON was originally a Rectory in the gift of the Archbishop of Canterbury, being held at the same time as a *peculiar* by him. In the Valor of 20 Edw. I., 1291, it was taxed at sixty marks. In the Liber Regis it is mentioned as follows:—

## KING'S BOOKS.

£ s. d.  
35 2 11.

## YEARLY TENTHS.

£ s. d.  
3 10 3½

Wimbledon R. (St. Mary).  
Impropriation. Archidiacon.  
pro Syn. et Prox. 6s. 8d. 25 acr.  
et un virgat. terr. gleb. ad  
valor. 1s. 6d. &c. Dean and  
Chapter of Worcester.\*

Archbishop Cranmer conveyed the advowson, as well as the manor, to Henry VIII., in exchange for other lands. This monarch seems to have been partial to exchanges; not, perhaps, without reason, if, as we may fairly conclude, each exchange was a pecuniary advantage to himself. We find, therefore, that he wished to possess the manor of Grymley, &c., belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, but, as it seems, with the intention thereby of

\* *Liber Regis*, by John Bacon, Esq., Receiver of the First Fruits, p. 948.

making an exchange with the bishop; and thereupon the Dean and Chapter granted to the king that manor amongst other estates. What the king gave in exchange we do not know; but it appears by indenture dated Nov. 20th, 38 Henry VIII., that what the king so gave was inadequate; and he added to it, amongst other things, the advowson, right of patronage, free disposition, and presentments of and to the church and parsonage of *Wymbylton* in Surrey, and all chapels in the said county to the said church annexed, to hold in frank almoign, reserving a rent of £3. 10s. 9½d. to the office of First Fruits and tenths for the said parsonage, in recompense for the old tenths, immediately after the parsonage of *Wymbylton* and chapels thereto annexed should come into their possession, free from incumbrances, except £6. 13s. 4d. yearly, payable to a priest serving the chapel of *Puttenheath*, in Surrey, for his stipend or wages; a like payment to a priest serving one other chapel within *Wymbylton* [*Mortlake*], and 6s. 8d. to the archbishop for synodals and proxies out of the parsonage of *Wymbylton*. Except, nevertheless, the rights of the rectors and incumbents during their lives; and except the pensions and stipends and portions thereafter appointed for the several vicars to be endowed in the said parsonage, which the king means to impropriate to the Dean and Chapter, and gives assurance of several stipends for the endowment of the several vicars in the said churches thereafter to be made. *The Dean and Chapter agree to assign convenient mansions for the several vicars*, assurance to be made in six months after such church shall become void, whereunto any shall be presented to be vicar, and to pay yearly to the vicar of *Wymbylton* £13. 6s. 8d., and the rents reserved to the king; to a priest for *Puttenheath*, to be appointed by the vicar of *Wymbylton*, £6. 13s. 4d.; and the like sum for the other chapel, to be in like manner appointed; and 6s. 8d. to the archbishop.\*

\* Original in the Augmentation Office, E. 88.—Manning, III. 273.

On the 4th of January following, a few days before his death, Henry VIII., in exchange for the manor of Bishopstone, &c., granted to Nicholas Heath, Bishop of Worcester, the manor of Grymley, &c., a messuage within the site of the Whitefriars in Fleet Street, the *advowson* of the parsonage of Newington, and the vicarage of *Wimbledon*, in Surrey.\*

The king died on the 27th of January, before any endowment of a vicar had taken place; and Edward VI., soon after his accession, confirmed the grant to the Dean and Chapter of the rectory of Wymblyton, with its chapels, and with license to appropriate; so that the bishop got nothing by the grant of the *advowson* of the vicarage.†

In 1550 a letter was written by King Edward VI. to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, to desire that they would make the like, or, rather, a better, grant to Mr. Cecil, then Secretary of State (of a lease in reversion for sixty years), than they did to Sir Robert Tyrwhit, whose interest in the old lease Mr. Cecil had purchased.‡ The great tithes in Wimbledon were leased in 1656 for £80 per annum, and the taxes, to William Claxton.

It appears by the following letter from Archbishop Laud to Dr. Potter, Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, and Dean of Worcester, written in 1637, that the annual stipend was not then settled, but depended upon the will of the Dean and Chapter's lessee, by whom the curate was nominated:—

“SIR,—

“I am about to draw up my order for Worcester, and to settle peace between the Bishop, the City, and the Chapter, if I can. In the mean time, I am informed that there is some flaw found in the lease of the Rectory of Wimbledon, and that my Lord is about to renew it again of the Church of Worcester. To this

\* Deed in Aug. Office, E. 90.

† Manning, III. 273.

‡ Rawlinson's MS. additions to Aubrey's *Antiquities of Surrey*, in the Bodleian Library.—Nares's *Life of Lord Burleigh*.

rectory, Putney and Mortlake are chapels of ease ; and Mortlake hath been for divers years, and is at present, a place of great in-conformity, and where usually such men are placed as will take little from your lessee, and live upon the humour of the people. Upon this I have two requests to make to you : The one that you would take means to increase the stipend of the curate there, and at Putney also, and to make it certayne. The other that you would (as it well beseems you) take the nomination of the curates in both places to yourselves, and not leave it to your tenant, my Lord Wimbledon, or any other. And I shall expect to receive satisfaction from you in these particulars, having acquainted his Majesty with them already, and he approves them. Thus, not doubting of your care herein, and ready performance, I leave you to the Grace of God, and rest

“ Your loving friend,

“ W. CANT.

“ LAMBETH, *May 12th*, 1637.”\*

Proceeding to the times of the Commonwealth, we find that an inquisition was taken at Kingston, January 28th, 1658, by Commissioners Thomas Lord Pride, Major B——,† Thomas Kelsey, Major Gowall, Tobias Bridge, &c. &c., to inquire into the ecclesiastical benefices, &c., in the hundred of Brixton, with the names of the patrons.

The Dean and Chapter of Worcester hired Mr. Fox at Wimbledon, Mr. Hudson at Putney, and Mr. Clarkson at Mortlake ; “ and they so further say and certify, that the churchwardens, overseers for the poor, constables, head-boroughs, and such other parish officers, . . . . . and from the time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, have been chosen within each of the said chapelries, and all and other rights and services done and performed within the said chapelries, distinct from the said parish of Wimbledon, and that the said parish of Wimbledon separated from the said chapels of Putney and

\* MS. Harl. 70,001, Art. 60, orig.

† The name is illegible in the MS., which is much worn in several places.



Mortlake consisteth of many families, and the tythe of the said Rectory arising within the said parish over and above the tythes arising within the said chapelries are of the yearly value of about £80; also that the said chapelry at Putney consisteth of very many families, and the said chapel is situated from the said parish church of Wimbledon about two miles, and from the said chapel of Mortlake about two miles, and there was a constant resort through the chapelry of Putney, being a thoroughfare for persons resorting from London by the river of Thames into the said county of Surrey; and the said chapel standing upon or near to the landing place, and the tythes of the said Rectory arising within the said Chapelry are of the yearly value of about £80. And they further say and certify, that the said Chapelry of Mortlake consisteth of very many families, and is situated 3 miles from the said Parish Church of Wimbledon, and about 2 miles from the said Chapel of Putney, and that the said tythes are of the yearly value of about £75. Further they say and certify, that from their distance from each other they think it convenient that the said chapelries be divided from the parish of Wimbledon and made two distinct parishes of themselves." That "the tythe arising within the said parishes so divided respectively be fixed, and . . . \* to the chapelries for the maintenance of the ministers of the said respective parishes, and that the said divisions are convenient to be . . . \* as aforesaid, if it should be thought fit by the commissioners."†

The arrangement thus entered into lasted, however, only till the restoration of Charles II. The Dean and Chapter of Worcester remained in possession of the Rectory, and have more than once granted it on leases for three lives to the lord of the manor. In January, 1747, a lease was granted to "the Trustees in the will of the Duchess of

\* Illegible.

† Proceedings of the Parliamentary Committees.—*Lambeth Library.*

Marlborough, by description of the Rectory of Wimbledon, with the mansion house, barns and appurtenances, reserving a yearly rent of £49. 1s. 2d., and the appointment of the Vicars, Clerks, or Curates to the Church of Wimbledon, and the Chapels of Putney and Mortlake, members thereof, and the profits of the Easter book, and surplice fees, and a house adjoining the Chapel of Mortlake appointed to the curate thereof. The Lessees to repair the chancels of Wimbledon, Putney, and Mortlake, and the *Parsonage house at Wimbledon*, and to pay three several Clerks or Curates appointed by the Dean and Chapter as much winnowed wheat and barley, and so much in money as will make up the yearly sum of £40 each; and to pay all tenths and subsidies to the King or the ordinary." Similar terms were agreed upon in fresh leases granted in 1759 and in 1784.

The exact date of the Parsonage-house cannot be accurately determined. We have stated above,\* that it was probably the home of Sir William Cecil during his residence in Wimbledon. In the survey taken by order of Parliament in the seventeenth century, it is described as containing a considerable number of rooms, and having two coach stables, stabling for fourteen horses, and a hawk's mew.† One other building is mentioned as adjoining it, containing two rooms above stairs and two below stairs, wherein, says the Survey, "the minister of Wimbledon the French gardiner of Wimbledon orange-garden doe live." The circular staircase which ascends in the turret on the north-west side of the building, was formed of separate blocks of solid oak, several of which still remain. The exterior was restored in 1863, at the cost of J. A. Beaumont, Esq., who uses it as a gardener's cottage.

\* Page 32.

† In excavating to build some hothouses for J. A. Beaumont, Esq., the present possessor, large blocks of concrete foundations were discovered, showing the former existence of much larger premises than those which now remain.

## CHAPTER VII.

## RECTORS AND PERPETUAL CURATES.

Master Philip in the reign of King John. Peter, the queen's physician. John de Ausone. Sketch of Archbishop Reynolds, Lord Chancellor, Rector of Wimbledon; of John de Sandal, Bishop of Winchester, Lord Chancellor, Rector; of Adam Murimoth, Rector. List of Rectors till the Appropriation to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester. List of Perpetual Curates to the present time.

THE first rector of whom we have any record was "*Master Philip*," who, in the early part of the thirteenth century, during the reign of King John, "held the church of the gift of the Archbishop, and in such state it was worth twenty marks."\*

The next whom we have discovered is incidentally mentioned in a letter from Adam de Mariscus to Robert Grostete, Bishop of Lincoln, in which he mentions "*Peter*, rector of the church at Wymbledon,† physician to the queen, a man of great skill in literature, and of great probity."‡

The next rector whom we meet with, was *John de Ausone*, only known to us as being a favourite with King Edward (I. ?), and a great trouble to Archbishop Peckham, on account of his non-residence in Wimbledon. The following curious letter from the Archbishop to the King will explain the dilemma in which the former was placed between his loyalty to his sovereign and his duty to his office.

\* *Testa de Nevill*, Appendix VI.

† We retain the variations of the name in this chapter.

‡ *Monumenta Franciscana*, edited by J. S. Brewer, p. 114.

"A tres noble Seygnr. Edward Deu grace de Rey de Engleterre Seijgnr. de Irlaunde, Duc Daquitayne ; frere Johan le prestre de Caunterbire saluz ; en grant reverence. Sire sachez ke par la priere le Esveske de Norwiz jeo otray a Johan de ausone persone de Wimbeldon ke il pust demeurer a Parys al escole treis auns estudiant en divinite. E ke il tant dementers a preist del Engleis pur enseigner sun poeple en lu e en tens. E il si cumme mau reconisant grace ke jeo li ay fete ne nie fine de angoyser par diverse prieres ke jeo li enloyngne sun terme plus jeo crei, pur mettre sa ferme a poynt, ke pur amur de la divinite. E se il ne esteit pur l'amur de vostre reverence vrieiment jeo li retreie (retirerai ?) kant ke jeo ly ay otrie mes ne pur kant pur ceo ke vos prieres ne soient voides quant jeo saverai comment il avera despendu les treis auns ico frai de greign, respit la volente Deu e la vostre se il seit issi covenable as almes, ke il ad en garde. E sire pur Deu mercy ne vous mellez de gens que ben de seinte iglise turnent en marchandise. Sire Deus gard vostre seignurie e quant ke vus amez. Ceste lettre fu escrete a Gymmyngham le jour seinte Lucie."\*

A literal, but necessarily somewhat uncertain translation in some parts, would run as follows :—

"To the very noble Lord, Edward, by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Acquitaine, brother John the Priest of Canterbury greeting, in great reverence. Sire, know that at the prayer of the Bishop of Norwich, I shall grant leave to *John of Ausone, parson of Wimbeldon*, that he may stay at school at Paris three years studying in Divinity ; and that he much belies the character of an English priest to teach his people in light and in season (?) ; and he, as ungrateful for the favour that I have done him, never stops worrying me by divers prayers, that I may prolong his term, more, I think, in order to arrange his farm than for love of Divinity. And if it were not for the love of your Reverence, truly I would take from him as much time as I have granted him ; but, in order that your prayers be not fruitless, when I shall learn how he has spent the three years, I will pay great respect to the will of God, and your will, if it be so suitable for souls, that he should remain. And, Sire, for God's sake, meddle not with folk that turn the goods of holy Church into merchandise.

\* *Reg. Peckham*, 94 b.

Sire, God keep your Lordship and all that you love. This letter was written at Gymmyngham on St. Lucy's Day." \*

At the end of the same century the Rectory was held by one of the most gifted men in the Church. *Walter Reynolds*, or *Reginald*, was the son of Walter Reginald, a miller at Windsor. He was instituted to the living of Wymbledon on the 8th of July, 1298, Robert Winchelsey being at that time Archbishop of Canterbury, on the presentation of the king, Edward I., who had seized on the temporalities of the see of Canterbury, because the primate had refused him a subsidy from the clergy to maintain the expense of the war in Scotland.† The Archbishop admitted him, but at the same time reserved to himself the right of appointing a vicar or curate to perform the duties, Walter Reynolds being at that time only a subdeacon.‡ He was a great favourite of Edward I., and tutor to the young prince, afterwards Edward II. Whilst rector of Wymbledon, he was also canon of St. Paul's in London. He was consecrated Bishop of Worcester, by the primate Winchelsey, in the cathedral church of Canterbury, on the 13th of October, 1308, having been made Lord High Treasurer of England on the 22nd of August in the previous year. He was elevated to the post of Chancellor on the 6th of July, 1311, the result of a compromise between the king, Edward II., and his discontented barons, who in this case yielded to the wishes of their monarch, naturally desirous of retaining his old tutor near his person. Reynolds is said to have advanced £1,000 on this occasion to the king, which was probably divided between the monarch and the barons. Twice during his tenure of office he gave the seal into the charge of Osgodbey, the Master of the Rolls; once, when he attended the king to Berwick-on-Tweed, and again when he went to take part in a general council held at Vienne, in Dauphiny.

\* *Lambeth Register*, Peckham, 94 b.

† *Prynne's Records*, III. 784. Godwin, 125.

‡ *Lambeth Register*, Winchelsey, fol. 246 b.

On his return, finding that the disputes between the king and barons had grown fiercer than ever, in consequence of the recall of the favourite Gavestone by Edward, Reynolds was obliged to resign the office of chancellor. The king was compelled to confer on a Committee of Parliament the permanent power of appointing to all the great offices of state; Gavestone was taken prisoner and executed; and when at last some kind of compromise was effected, Reynolds was appointed by the king Keeper of the Great Seal, under the superintendence of three others to be nominated by the barons.

He was translated to the see of Canterbury in 1313, though not without a rival, in the person of Thomas Cobham, Dean of Salisbury. The claim of Reynolds was, however, eventually established, and in April, 1314, he was installed,\* retaining the office of Keeper of the Great Seal, which he held till after the return of the king from Scotland, upon his defeat at Bannockburn. He finally resigned the post September 26th, 1314. His subsequent conduct is open to censure. He took part with the Court of Rome in its encroachments on the English crown, and even aided Queen Isabella against the king. Moral weakness naturally produced cowardice, and he is said to have died of terror, because the Pope threatened him with spiritual censure for having irregularly consecrated Berkeley, Bishop of Exeter, to please the queen and her abandoned favourite, Mortimer. He breathed his last in the manor-house at Mortlake, either in November or December, 1327, and was buried in the cathedral of Canterbury, on the 9th of December.

During his chancellorship an ordinance of the king was published, relating to the chapel of Windsor, which shows

\**Anglia Sacra*, pt. i. 532. There is a slight discrepancy in the dates of the arrival and publication of the papal bull granting the translation from Worcester to Canterbury, the reception of the pallium, the enthronization, and the death. Cf. Thorn, Walsingham, Cant. MSS. &c. &c.

that the chancellor still retained the post of chief of the Chapel Royal, and was bound to see it provided with proper ornaments.\*.

After the consecration of Walter Reynolds to the see of Worcester, there seem to have been two rival claimants for the living of Wymbeldon. A person bearing the name of *John Axoner* urged his lawful title to it, on the ground of his having been presented by "the Church" (probably the Pope). The archbishop was unwilling entirely to ignore the right thus brought forward, but determined, if possible, to present his own friend, *Henry de Derby*. We find him therefore collating De Derby to the living in February, 1309, with this provision, that as soon as the suit shall have terminated in his favour, he may enter upon full possession. And in a second letter to Henry de Derby himself, copied into the Lambeth Register, we find the questionable permission granted to apply the fruits of the living in defence of his suit.†

On the 19th of September, 1310, *John de Sandal* was instituted to the rectory of Wymbeldon.‡ Although only a subdeacon at this time, he was already in possession of great ecclesiastical preferment. First, he had been rector of Lokynton, which he had resigned upon his promotion to Dunbar, in the diocese of St. Andrew's, in Scotland; afterwards he exchanged Aston for the church of Swindesburn, in the diocese of Dublin; and at the time of his institution to the rectory of Wymbeldon § he is described as chancellor of Dublin cathedral, canon of St. Andrew's, of London, and of Lincoln, and as holding other ecclesiastical benefices, which together amount to a certain sum not named, but not so large as to prevent his being presented, in consideration of his great worth, to the rectory of Wymbeldon, which he is permitted to serve by deputy, in the person of *John de*

\* *Anglia Sacra*. Campbell's *Lives of the Chancellors*, c. XII.

† Winchelsey, fol. 25 a.

‡ Id. 47 b. § Id. 48 a.

*Grafton.* The Pope's dispensation was needed to confirm so decided an instance of plurality. We accordingly find a letter and dispensation from Pope Clement V., in the succeeding record, in which the praises of John de Sandal are loudly sounded, and the dispensation readily granted.\* He seems to have been a man distinguished amongst his contemporaries. In 1312, two years after his institution to the rectory of Wymbeldon, we find him lieutenant of the Treasury. On the 4th of October in the year following, he was made treasurer of the Exchequer. In 1314 he was presented to a canonry in York cathedral. In 1315 he was created chancellor of England, an office which he held for four or five years. In his capacity as chancellor he was present at a Parliament held at Lincoln, January 28th, 1315, where he superintended the judicial business. Concurrently with his tenure of office, keepers of the great seal were appointed, either when "The Chancellor was going to the Earl of Lancaster, at Kenilworth, on the king's business," or "was absent from court about his election to his diocese;" or "was employed on a foreign mission for the king."†

De Sandal at last incurred the displeasure of Hugh le Despenser, the king's favourite, and was removed from the office of chancellor on the 11th of June, 1318. He had been created Bishop of Winchester in August, 1316; but little is known of him afterwards till his death, which took place at Southwark on the 2nd, or, as some say, the 9th of November, 1319. He was buried in the church dedicated to St. Mary, in that parish.‡

Few particulars have reached us respecting his character, conduct, or tastes, except that he appears to have been somewhat of an epicure. In the 10th year of Edward II., 1316, he sent two famous poulterers, Adam Fitz Rupert and Thomas de Durston, into divers parts of the realm to

\* Winchelsey, fol. 48 a.

† Campbell's *Lives of the Chancellors*, c. xii.

‡ *Anglia Sacra*, pt. i.



purchase delicate poultry for his table, and he fortified them with letters patent of intendance and safe-conduct under the great seal, for which he obtained a warrant under the king's sign manual.\*

On the 11th of October, 1316, about two months after the elevation of John de Sandal to the bishopric of Winchester, Archbishop Reynolds presented *Walter de Kemeseye*, his cross-bearer, to the living of Wymbeldon.†

He resigned very shortly afterwards; for on the 15th December of the same year the archbishop appointed, in his stead, *Adam Murimoth*, his chaplain.‡ As there is a variation in the dates of his biographers, we cannot determine with accuracy in what year he was born. It was probably about 1287. He flourished during the reigns of Edward II. and Edward III.; and though he must have been considered a great diplomatist in his own age, his memory is at present chiefly associated with his "Chronicles of his Own Days," embracing, it is most likely, a period of about forty years. Bishop Tanner informs us that Murimoth was proctor for the University of Oxford in a cause which that body pleaded against the Dominicans, and that he was rewarded for his faithful counsel by a yearly pension of sixty shillings, granted him in 1311, at which time he was a Doctor of Laws. His talents becoming widely known, in 1317 or 1318, at the time he must have been rector of Wymbeldon, he acted as proctor for the church of Canterbury at the Roman court, then held at Lyons. The object was to obtain the Pope's consent to a subsidy demanded by Edward II. to carry on the war with Scotland. This embassy was undertaken at the king's expense, and was successful, as Pope

\* Campbell, c. xii.

† Reynolds, fol. 17 a.

‡ Reynolds, fol. 18 b. It is but fair to say that a faint line is drawn across the MS. entry of this institution in the *Lambeth Register*. But even supposing it was purposely drawn as an erasure, it may only mean that the entry is made in the wrong page, as there is a little confusion of dates at this particular spot. I cannot refrain from claiming for Wimbledon so great a man as Adam Murimoth.

John XXII. granted the king a tenth, for one year, to meet the required need.

In 1323. he was again sent on an embassy to the Papal court, bearing a letter from Edward II. to the Pope, which shows the high opinion entertained towards him by the king. This letter informs us that "Master Adam de Murimoth, Doctor of Civil Law and Canon of Hereford, was *entrusted with the whole mind of his royal master*, and endowed with plenary authority to make such arrangements as he might judge most fit for the honour and advantage of his sovereign."

Rymer tells us that this mission was of a twofold nature—the first respected Edward's complaint against Stratford, Bishop of Winchester, and the other and more important part, was to oppose the suit of the Scottish king, Robert the Bruce, who had sent his brother Alexander, Bishop of Glasgow, and the Earl of Moray, to obtain a remission of his excommunication and interdict, which had been imposed on himself and his kingdom. Adam zealously performed the service enjoined him; and laying before the Pope such arguments to prove the manifest and notorious offence the Scots had been guilty of, not only against the king and kingdom of England, but also against the Apostolic see, he succeeded in throwing such obstacles in the way of the removal of the interdict that the Scottish legates returned in the following year without having obtained the object of their mission.

His church preferments were many and rapid. Besides the living of Wymbeldon in 1316, we learn from the letter of Edward quoted above, that he was canon of Hereford in 1323. In 1325 he was made vicar-general of the Archbishop of Canterbury. On the 16th June, in the same year, he was appointed to the canonry of Ealdestreet, or Old Street, in St. Paul's, London. On February 3rd, 1327, he received the prebendal stall of Nesdon, in Wiltshire. In 1334 he was rector of Wrasbury, Bucks.\* About 1336 he was promoted, say some, to the prebendal stall of Harles-

\* Gyll's *History of Wrasbury*, p. 106.

ton, or Earlston, in Lincolnshire. In 1328 he had been made precentor of Exeter, which, according to some authorities, he exchanged in 1337 for the prebendal stall of Wyadsbury, in Lincoln cathedral. But it seems more probable that he retained the precentorship of Exeter till his death; for we are informed, on the authority of the Patent Rolls, that one "Thomas de Swabey was appointed to a stall in Exeter cathedral, May 2nd, 44 Edw. III., vacant by the death of Adam de Murimoth," which must have occurred a short time before, probably in the early part of 1370.\* Murimoth could not have held the living of Wymbeldon more than ten years, for we find "*Bertrand de Monte Faventio* instituted July 12th, 1326, and rector in 1339."†

*Adomar*.‡ Rector in 1348.

*William de Cheston* prosecuted a suit in the King's court against the archbishop (Islip) for this church (on what ground does not appear), but submitted himself to the archbishop 6 Kal. Feb. 1351,§ and thereupon appears to have had possession; for he was rector, and had licence to be absent, 10 Kal. Jan. 1353.

*Richard Claymond* was rector, and afterwards exchanged with *William de Beverle* for Wyberton, in Lincolnshire, 4 Kal. June, 1360.

*Bretell Avenal* was collated 9 Kal. Sept. 1361.||

\**Walter Dautre* was collated to Wymbeldon with the chapel annexed, 11 Kal. Oct. 1361, but resigned.¶

*John de Keynton* was collated to this church, with the chapels of *Mortlake* and *Puttenheth*, in the deanery of Croydon, in exchange for the rectory of *Rethersfeld* (in the diocese of Chichester), with the chapel of *Ferenth*, 7 Id. April, 1363.\*\*

\* Preface to *Adami Murimuthensis Chronica*.

† Stratford, 194 b.

‡ See page 21.

§ Islip, A 3, 1013.

|| Id. 288 b.

¶ Id. 290 b.

\*\* Id. 300 a. During this incumbency we meet with a grant in French to John Stigern, to have and to hold the meads with all their appurtenances, called *Wardeland*, in "la ville de Wymbeldon," 12th July, 1367.—*Regist. Langham*, 63 b.

*William de Beverle* (could he be the same as the one mentioned above †), rector, exchanged with *Adam Holme* for *Blofyld*, in Norfolk, 17 Kal. Aug. 1369.\*

The king's writ (Edw. III.), 15 Kal. June, 1371, was sent to the archbishop, to inquire who was rector of this place in the 25th, 26th, 27th years of his reign (1352, 1353, 1354); on which a careful investigation was made, and it was found that "*Hanybaldus, late Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church*," was rector during those years, and received the profits through his ministers.† Could he have been appointed in the absence of *William de Cheston* mentioned before?

On the 5th December, 1383, we find a grant of land given near the chapel at Mortlake, to be used as a cemetery.‡

*John Blackwell* was rector Dec. 18, 1399, on the death of *Adam Holme*.§

*Thomas Astele*, on the resignation of *John Blackwell*, January 3rd, 1430.||

*William Lyndewode*. Aug. 7th, 1433.¶

*Stephen Wylton*, Doctor of Laws, May 18th, 1434.\*\*

*Henry Severe* was rector 1471.††

*Edmund Lycheffeld*, on his death, Aug. 3rd, 1471.‡‡

*Thomas Wylkenson*, on the resignation of *Lycheffeld*, June 1st, 1474.§§

*John Jenner*, Bachelor of Laws, on the resignation of *Wylkenson*, June 19th, 1476.||||

*Thomas Grene*.

*Robert Wykys*, on the death of *Thomas Grene*, Feb. 10th, 1507.¶¶

*William de* ——— died rector in ——— cccxlj; [qu. 1461 or 1561.]\*\*\*

\* *Regist. Whittlesey*, 72 a.

† *Id.* 161 b.

‡ *Id.* 52 b.

§ *Reg. Arundel*.

|| *Reg. Chicheley*, 187 a.

¶ *Id.* 200 a.

\*\* *Id.* 203 a.

†† *Reg. Bouchier*.

‡‡ *Id.* 104 a.

§§ *Id.* 110 a.

|||| *Reg. Bouchier*.

¶¶ *Id. Reg. Warham*, 332 a.

\*\*\* Monumental inscription in the church.

*Thomas Mallyng*, or *Myllinge*, was rector 1535;\* died Nov. 3rd, 1540.†

*John Browne* was presented by Archbishop Cranmer, November 9th, 1540, on the death of the last incumbent.

After the appropriation to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester,‡ no vicar having been endowed, they appointed a curate. The only names now to be found, as they appear at times in the registers, or from other sources, are these:—

*Daniel Meade*, 1610.

*Richard Edwards*, 1617.

*William Syms*, 1658.

On the 24th of June, 1656, it was resolved by the Committee of Plundered Ministers, "that *Christopher Fox*, not having satisfied the committee of his fitness to serve the cure of Wimbledon, the Right Hon. Lord Lambert (then in possession of the manor) be desired to nominate some fit person." On the 11th of May, 1658, William Syms was appointed by the committee. In the "*Annus Mirabilis*," published in 1661, is an account of one Nathaniel Pace being struck with a dead palsy, Oct. 17, 1660, immediately after cursing Master Syms, the minister of Wimbledon.§

1663. *Thomas Luckeyn*.

1665. *Humphrey Williams*.

1683. *Mr. Jones* died; we cannot tell when he was instituted; he was serving the cure in 1679.

1683. *Edward Collins*, M.A., buried at Wimbledon, April 26th, 1738.

1739. *John Cooksey*, M.A., in July.||

1777. *Herbert Randolph*, B.D. Licensed 3rd of July; died in 1819. During his incumbency, on the 24th of May, 1811, Edward Bullock, M.A., was licensed to perform the duties of the parish,

\* *Reg. Fox*, at Winchester, V. 172 a.

† Monumental inscription in the church.

‡ See page 95.

§ Lysons, p. 402.

|| See Monumental Inscription, p. 90.

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with a yearly salary of £100. William Pritchard succeeded Mr. Bullock in 1812.

1819. *Henry Lindsay*, M.A. Licensed on the 25th of June, 1819; vacated by cession, and collated to Sundridge in January, 1846.
1846. *Richard Leonard Adams*, M.A. Licensed May 22nd, by the Bishop of London; resigned July, 1859, for the living of Shiere, near Guildford.
1859. *Henry William Haygarth*, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford. Licensed July 26th. He is assisted by three resident curates.

## • CHAPTER VIII.

## THE PARISH REGISTERS.

Institution of Registers. The Wimbledon Registers. Remarkable entries quoted from the Baptismal, Marriage, and Burial Registers. Names of Families resident in Wimbledon during the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.

ON the dissolution of the monasteries in 1535, the dispersion of the monks, who were hitherto the principal registrars, made the institution of parish registers necessary. An order therefore was issued by Cromwell, who was vicar-general, in 1536,\* by which each parish was bound to keep them. Again in 1558, on the accession of Queen Elizabeth, an order was issued that every minister, at his institution, should subscribe to the following terms:— "I shall keepe the Register Booke according to the Queene's Majesties injunction." Again, October 25th, 1597, it was ordered that parchment register-books should be purchased at the expense of the parish, and that all registers then written on paper should be transcribed on parchment, and that all subsequent baptisms, marriages, and burials be duly entered and certified at the end of the page by the clergyman and churchwardens; and copies be sent the register of the diocese, to be faithfully preserved in the episcopal archives; which regulations were confirmed by the 70th Ecclesiastical Canon of 1603. Some interruption occurred during the Commonwealth, from 1644 to the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

Our church registers are nearly perfect, the earliest dating back to 1538. The entries from the commencement to 1599,

\* For account of Cromwell, see above, p. 28.

are in the same handwriting, having been copied on parchment, "by the order of William Ball and Joseph Myssett, y<sup>e</sup> yere-wardens" in 1599.

## BAPTISMS.

The earliest register of baptism is on January 13th, 153 $\frac{3}{8}$ .

"ELIZABETH WIGHT, the daughter of William Wight\* and Ann his wife, was christened the XIII<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1538."

1610. "ELIZABETH WALTER, the daughter of Sir William Walter,† Knight, and Dame Elizabeth his wife, was born the five and twentieth daie of May (1610), being Fridaie, about the hour of five of the clock in the afternoon, and was baptized the third of June following, being Trinity Sundaie.

"This is herebie Registered by me,

"DANL. MEADE, Minister ibidem."

In 1612 we have an entry to the effect that Edward Lyde, who was born or baptized on or about November 28th, 1593, was not then entered in the register; but the fact having been proved by credible witnesses, his name and baptism were entered in 1612.

A similar case occurred somewhat later. Henrie Eccleston was born and baptized in or about September 2nd, 1610, and credible witnesses swear to the same the 10th day of March, 1629.

"The thirteenth day of Julie, being Satterday, in the yeare of our Lord 1616, about half an hour before 10 of the clocke in the

\* The Wights seem to have been an established family in Wimbledon at that time. They also possessed property in other parts of the county. "Polsted, in the parish of Compton, came to John Wight of Wimbledon, he having married Agnes, daughter of John Kemp, proprietor." Wight sold it in 1558 to Sir William More, of Losely. The name occurs very frequently in the register.

† For particulars of the Walter family, see inscription on monument, p. 78.



forenoon of the same day at Wimbledon, in the countie of Surrie, was born the Lady GEORGI-ANNA, daughter to the right honorable Thomas Earl of Exeter, and the honorable Lady Frances Countess of Exeter; and the same ladie Georgi-Anna was baptized the thirtieth day of the same moneth of Julie, in the saide yeare 1616, being Tuesdaie in the afternoone of the same daie; Queen Anne and the Earl of Worcester, Lord Privie-Seal, being witnesses; and the Lord Bishop of London administered the baptism."

1629. "The second day of November being Monday, between the hours of four and five in the morning, was born ROBERT WILLOUGHBY, the son of the Right Hon<sup>l</sup>. Francis Lord Willoughby and Lady Elizabeth his wife, and was baptized Thursday, the nineteenth day of the same month, 1629."

1664. (The son of Rev. Thos. Luckeyn, the curate, whose entries are always in Latin, written in a particularly neat hand.)

"THOMAS LUCKEYN, filius Thomæ Luckeyn et Annæ uxoris ejus, natus erat die Saturn. 26<sup>th</sup> Marcii, 1664, et baptizatus fuit die Veneris 15 Aprilis 1664."

1723. "SUSANNAH, daughter of Moses and Mary Cooper, Travellers, born in Martin (Merton), and the poor woman, being desirous to have it baptized, though she had lain in but a week, carried it in her own arms to Martin Church, to tender it to me to Baptize it there on Sunday last, being June y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>. But Justice Meriton being informed by the Constable of her being in the porch with that intention, went out of his seat in time of service to her, and took hold of her, and led her to the court of his house, being over against the Church, and shut the gate upon her and her husband, and let them not out till sermon and service were over and I was gone home, and made the man's mittimus to send him to the house of correction if he would not carry his wife and child out of the parish without being Baptized and consequently registered there, which being forced to comply with, she brought up her child to me, to my house on this day, being Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, complaining of her hard usage and passionately desiring me to Baptize it, which I did by the name above in the presence of her husband, my wife, and D<sup>r</sup>. Elir Pitchford. 1723.

"EDWARD COLLINS."

1751. "GEORGIANA, daughter of Hon<sup>l</sup>. John Spencer, Esq<sup>r</sup>., and Georgiana his wife, was baptized July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1751."

1751. "THOMAS, son of Peter Shaw, Esq<sup>r</sup>., and Elizabeth his wife, baptized Sep. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1751."

1758. "GEORGE JOHN, son of John Spencer, Esq<sup>r</sup>., and Georgiana his wife, was born September the first, and baptized October the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1758; His Majesty and Earl Cowper being godfathers; the Duchess of Marlborough and Lady Dowager Bateman godmothers. It is remarkable, that His Majesty King George II. was godfather not only to this young gentleman, but to his mother, daughter of the Hon. Stephen Poyntz, Esq<sup>r</sup>., and to his grandmother, daughter of the Right Honorable the Earl of Granville."

1761. "HENRIETTA FRANCES, daughter of John Lord Viscount Spencer and Lady Georgiana his wife, was born June 16<sup>th</sup>, and baptized July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1761."

1782. "JOHN CHARLES, s. of George John Viscount Althorpe and Lavinia his wife, was born May 30<sup>th</sup>, and baptized July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1782, Earl Spencer and Lord Lucan, and Countess Spencer and Lady Lucan being sponsors."

1786. "CLARISSA, daughter of William Beaumarice Rush and Laura his wife, was bapt. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1786."

1789. "HERBERT, s. of Rev<sup>d</sup>. Herbert Randolph and Diana his wife, bap. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, received into Church Dec<sup>r</sup>. 15, 1789."

1800. "MARIA, d. of Henry and Fanny Maria Lushington, was privately christened, and received into the Church, Aug. 14, 1800."

1801. "LUCY FRANCES, d. of Charles Lock, Esq<sup>r</sup>., his Majesty's Consul General at Naples, and Cecilia Margaret his wife, born at Naples June 26<sup>th</sup>, and baptized in this Church, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1801. The Right Hon<sup>l</sup>. Thomas Conolly, Esq<sup>r</sup>., Right Hon<sup>l</sup>. Lady Lucy Fitzgerald, and Frances Marchioness of Bute, being sponsors."

1803. "ALGERNON JAMES, s. of George Percy Lord Lovaine and Louisa Harcourt Stuart his wife, was baptized Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1803."

1806. "THOMAS ERSKINE, s. of James Perry, Esq<sup>r</sup>., and Ann his wife, was born July 20<sup>th</sup>, and baptized Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1806. The

sponsors being the Right Hon<sup>l</sup>. Thomas Lord Erskine, Lord High Chancellor of England, Rev<sup>d</sup>. Mathew Raine, D.D., of the Charter House, and M<sup>rs</sup>. Margaret Anderson."

The last entry in the old Register is dated December 30th, 1812. Henceforth the new system is adopted, which does not admit of any extra notes tending to give additional interest to many of the entries.

#### MARRIAGES.

The Marriage Register begins October 6th, 1594. The first couple registered—

"JOHN STAFFINGTON and ANNE ASKEY."

1623. "M<sup>r</sup>. CHRISTOPHER WRAY, Esquire, and Mistress ALBINIA CECILL weare married the third day of August, 1623. She was given in marriage by the Hon<sup>l</sup>. Sir Edward Cecill, son of the Right Hon<sup>l</sup>. the Earl of Exeter."

1678. "On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the yeare of our Lord 1678, CHARLES Earle of PLYMOUTH was married to the Lady BRIDGET OSBORN, daughter of the Right Hon<sup>l</sup>. Thomas Earle of Danby, Lord High Treasurer of England."

1708. "Sir JOHN COTTON, of Conington, in the county of Huntingdon, Bart., was married to M<sup>rs</sup>. ELIZABETH HERBERT, granddaughter to the Duke of Leeds, in this chapel, on Sunday night, July 4, 1708, by M<sup>r</sup>. Hoskins, Vicar of Kingsey, Buckinghamshire, the licence being only a common one for the register of the parish church of Wimbledon, between the hours of 8 and 12 as usual."

1711. "HENRY Duke of BEAUFORT and MARY OSBORNE, daughter of Peregrine Marquis of Carmarthen, married by special licence in the Duke of Leeds Chapel, by M<sup>r</sup>. William Davis, that was chaplain to the Marchioness of Caermarthen, and præceptor to her sons, on the 14th day of September, 1711."

1774. "The Most Noble WILLIAM Duke of DEVONSHIRE, of the Parish of St. George's, Hanover Square, in the county of Middlesex, Batchelor, and the Right Hon<sup>l</sup>. Lady GEORGINA SPENCER,

Spinster, of the Parish of St. James, Westminster, in the aforesaid county, were married in this church by special license by me Charles Poyntz, D.D., June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1774.

"In the presence of

"D. PORTLAND.

"RICHARD CAVENDISH."

### BURIALS.

The Burial Register begins January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1593. The first entry is—

"FRANCIS HATCHER, son of Nicholas Hatcher, buried January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1593."

1665. "CHRISTOPHER, a son of My Lord of Bristol, was buried October 4<sup>th</sup>."

1678. A register of certificates from his Majesties justices of the peace, concerning affidavits made according to a late Act of Parliament, entitled an Act for burying in Woollen.

1678. "Sir Allen Brodrick certifieth that on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August in the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the 2<sup>nd</sup>, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Anno Dom. 1688, Frances Alleston, the wife of Humphrey Alleston, of the parish of Wimbledon, made oath that Mary Woodroffe, the daughter of John Woodroffe, of the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, Gent., was not wound up or buried in any other shroud than what is made of sheeps wool only."\*

1699. "THOMAS PITT, merchant, buried May 5<sup>th</sup>."

1706. "Son of GEORGE PORTMAN, scrivener, April 24, 1706."

\* For the encouragement of the woollen manufacture, it was enacted, 30 Charles II. c. 1, that no corpse should be buried in any stuff mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, gold, or silver, or any other than is made of sheep's wool only, or in any coffin otherwise lined, under a penalty of £5; of which affidavit was to be made by one of the relatives of the deceased to the minister, within eight days after interment, which affidavits were to be entered in a register. This act was repealed 54 George III. c. 108.

1788. FRANCIS TREVOR, aged 103, was buried Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

1796. JOHN LOW, aged 96, buried April 10<sup>th</sup>. Both remarkable instances of longevity.

1780. CORBYN MORRIS, Esq., buried Jan. 1st.

This gentleman was author of an "Essay towards fixing the true Standards of Wit, Humour, Raillery, Satire, and Ridicule;" a treatise "On the Past Growth and Present State of London;" a Plan for balancing the Accounts of the Landed Estates; a Treatise on the Impolicy of Insuring the Enemies' Ships in Time of War; a Pamphlet on the Silver Coin; and a "Letter to the Byestander."

In addition to the names of families already given in the preceding extracts, the following are found so frequently in the registers as evidently to prove a settled residence in the parish.

From 1538 to 1600, and for the most part through the 17th century. Wight, Cole, Smyth (sometimes Smith), Bonham, Simpson, Andstey, Childe, Mason, Lingard (sometimes Lyngard), Collins. Towards end of 17th century, Huntingford, Pace, Goswell.

In the 18th century, in addition to many of the preceding, we find — Watney, Witham, Paterson, Carter, Peacock, Rampton, Jennings, Smythers, Right, Ellis, Turner, Low, Appleton, Manning, Wiltshire, Bingham, Maybanke, Lancaster, English, Kirby, Palmer, Terry, Elvins, Berkshire, Penner, &c.

## CHAPTER IX.

## CHARITIES AND PAROCHIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Account of Smith's Charity, Cecil, Hilliard, Lordell, De Visme, Simons, Gonston, Rose, Bray, Marryat, Johnson, Peache, Barker. The Almshouses. National Schools. Village Club and Lecture Hall. Cottage Improvement Society. Friendly Societies. General Parochial Charities.

THE first, and one of the most important Wimbledon charities, is that to which it is entitled, together with many other neighbouring parishes, under the will of Henry Smith, Esq.

From his monument in Wandsworth church, it appears that Mr. Henry Smith was born in Wandsworth about the year 1548, that he was an alderman of London, and that he died 30th January, 1627; being then nearly seventy-nine years of age.

From its being stated that he was born there, it might be supposed that he was of a family of that name who possessed the manor of *Dunsford* in that parish; but the manor did not come into their hands till about 1569, which was some years after his birth, and continued with them in the male line till 1664, which was long after his death; and as he, in his will, speaks of no other relations than *sister's* children, and intimates that they were poor, it is more than probable that he was not connected with that family.

On the 9th of February, 1608, he was elected Alderman of the ward of *Farringdon Without*, in the room of *Henry Vylett*, and in the Corporation books he is described as citizen and

salter; the books, however, of that company having been burnt in 1666, no information can be got from thence.

It is understood that he was by trade a silversmith, and the place of his residence may be considered as some confirmation of it. It is known that he lived in *Silver Street, Cheapside*, and the house and buildings erected on the site of his house, burnt in the great fire of 1666, were occupied by a refiner till about 1791.

This trade, at all times profitable, will account for his acquisition of wealth much better than the idle story of his going about as a beggar, followed by a dog, a story which, however absurd, has generally prevailed; and in many of the parishes which partake of his bounty he is, to this day, spoken of by the appellation of *Dog Smith*. The relators add that he was whipped through some parish, and that he left nothing to it on that account. Whenever they have attempted to fix on a particular parish, they have been contradicted by the plain fact that the one so named does receive his money. In truth, the allotments to the parishes were made by his trustees after his decease, and the only three omitted in the whole county are very small obscure villages, in which no beggar was ever likely to have asked for assistance, and in which, if he had, there is no probability that an officer could have been found to execute such a process; viz., *Tattesfield*, near *Godstone*; *Chilworth*, or *St. Mariha-on-the-Hill*; and *Wanborough* (scarcely a parish), near *Guildford*. The story probably originated in that of the Lambeth pedlar, who preceded Mr. Smith, and gave an acre of land to that parish, and whose figure, followed by a dog, is still, or was till lately, preserved in a window of Lambeth Church.

Mr. Smith was possessed of very considerable property in land and money; and having lost his wife, by whom he had no child, he determined to dispose of his wealth to charitable uses.

It is stated, in his epitaph, that in his lifetime he gave to the towns of Croydon, Kingston-on-Thames, Guildford,

Farnham, Godalming, and Dorking, £1,000 each. In 1620 he executed deeds vesting his real and personal estates in trustees, reserving to himself £500 per annum for his life, and a power of appointing the rents and profits to charitable uses. By another deed he declared that the rents and profits should be employed by his trustees, or any seven or more of them, their heirs or assigns, to such charitable uses as they, or any seven or more of them, their heirs or assigns, should appoint.

The disposition of the property was confirmed by a decree of the Court of Chancery, June 20th, 1625, by which the trustees were in part exchanged. Mr. Smith was to have the use of his house in Silver Street for his life; to receive the rents and profits of his land and money for his life, and dispose of it for his own maintenance, and such charitable uses and otherwise for the benefit and relief of his own kindred, as he should think fit, and after his decease to charitable uses, purchasing impropriations for the maintenance of learned godly preachers, and such other charitable uses as he should by his will or deed appoint, and for want of such appointment as his trustees should appoint. In January following he executed a deed directing the income of his estate and money to be applied "to the relief of aged poor or infirm people; married persons having more children than their labour can maintain; poor orphans; such poor as keep themselves and families to labour, and put forth their children to be apprentices at the age of fifteen; to provide a stock always in readiness to such persons to work as are able. And not to any given to excessive drinking, whoremongers, common swearers, pilferers, or otherwise notoriously scandalous; or who have been incorrigible or disobedient servants; vagrants, such as have no constant dwelling, or receive inmates, or have not inhabited the parish five years before the distribution, or, being able, refuse to work." The churchwardens and overseers were to dispose of the moneys, and to meet once in every month on the Sabbath day, after evening service,



to consider which of the poor had most need of relief, and between Easter and Whitsunday, after evening service, to make up a book of receipts and payments, to be read in church on the next Sunday, and be signed by the churchwardens and overseers, and fixed to the wall of the church, and remain fourteen days.

On the 24th of April following (1627), he made his will, and thereby, amongst other things, gave £1,000 to be laid out in land for relief and ransom of poor men, being slaves under Turkish pirates; £1,000 to be so laid out for the use and relief of the poorest of his kindred; £500 to buy land for relief of the poor of Wandsworth; £1,000 for Reigate in like manner; £10,000 to buy impropriations for relief and maintenance of godly preachers, and the better furtherance of knowledge and religion; £1,000 to buy land for Richmond; £100 to be lent to poor persons in parcels of £20 at a time.

He died on the 30th of January next, 1627 $\frac{7}{8}$ , and was buried the 7th of February following, at Wandsworth, in the chancel of the church, which he had desired, because it was the place of his nativity. The funeral was worshipfully solemnized, as appears by the certificate in the College of Arms.

After the death of Mr. Smith, his trustees purchased several estates; amongst which was one at Kensington, appropriated to the relief of captives, and of his poor relations. The great tithes of Alfriston, in Sussex, and a portion of those in Mayfield in that county, were bought and applied to the relief of poor clergymen. Other estates were purchased, and, with those of which Mr. Smith died seised, were allotted by the trustees, in 1641, amongst a great number of parishes in different counties, but chiefly in Surrey, where the three very small parishes before mentioned were by some means omitted; viz., Tattesfield, near Croydon; Chilworth, or St. Martha-on-the-Hill, and Wanborough, near Guildford. The trust has been renewed from time to time, under the

direction of the Lord High Chancellor and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The portion of this charity which belongs to Wimbledon amounts to about £11 per annum. It has usually been distributed in the purchase of great coats for poor men, who must have been resident in the parish for five years, though it is in the power of the incumbent and churchwardens to give it in clothing of any kind or food.

The dividends arise from part of the rents of an estate, known as Clayhill, near Reigate, in Surrey.

1650. The Hon. Dorothy Cecil, second and unmarried daughter of Lord Wimbledon, charged certain lands in the parish of Putney, called Missleden and Newlands, and the buildings erected on them, with a payment of £25 a year, in trust to Sir Richard Betenson, William Locke, and William Masey, their heirs and assigns. Of this, £8 a year, or so much of it as should be sufficient, to be expended in the repairs of her father's tomb and chapel; the overplus to accumulate and to be expended in buying "stufte or materials" for the poor of Wimbledon who could work, to be employed on, and the profits gained thereby to be sold for the benefit of the poor and impotent who could not work. Of the remainder, £12 to be expended in apprenticing poor children, and £5 for children to learn reading and writing, "whereby they may be better fitted for a trade." The indenture is dated March 2nd, 1650.

In 1744, all the trustees having died, a case was heard before the Lord Chancellor, between John Cooksey, the minister, and the heirs and representatives of Sir Richard Betenson, the latest survivor of the original trustees,\* with others, concerning the distribution of the money. It was eventually decided, Aug. 3rd, 1745, that seven new trustees chosen from the principal inhabitants of Wimbledon should be nominated, and that whenever the number should be reduced to three, by death or resignation, such surviving

\* He died in 1679.

trustees, or the major part of them, should nominate four others. The seven appointed in 1745 were Thomas Walker, Stephen Bisse, Zachary Chambers, Benjamin Hayes, William Jackson, John Cooksey (minister), Swift Kirby.

On March 18th, 1772, Walker, Bisse, Jackson, and Kirby being dead, the survivors nominate Earl Spencer, Samuel Rush, William Wilberforce, and Corbyn Morris to make up their number, according to the directions stated above.

Again April 10th, 1780, Cooksey, Wilberforce, Chambers, and Morris being dead, the survivors nominate George John Viscount Althorp, William Lawrence, Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Herbert Randolph (minister).

Again March 10th, 1794, Earl Spencer, Samuel Rush, B. B. Hopkins, and Hayes being dead, and Lawrence having left the parish, the survivors nominate George Granville Leveson Gower, commonly called Earl Gower, William Beaumaris Rush, James Meyrick, John Chalié. In this trust-deed, however, there proved to be a legal error; consequently,

On May 3rd, 1822, though Earl Spencer\* was surviving, he was incapacitated. The other trustees were dead, except Right Hon. L. Gower Earl Gower, then become Marquis of Stafford, and Sir W. B. Rush. The Marquis of Stafford having left the parish and desiring to resign his trusteeship, they nominate the Right Hon. George John Earl Spencer, Hon. Charles Spencer, commonly called Lord Viscount Althorp, Hon. Sir James Allan Park, Justice of H. M.'s Court of Common Pleas, Thomas Tooke, Joseph Marryat, Henry Lindsay (minister).

This system of trusteeship for the charity is now given up, and the money is paid to the incumbent.

There is also an additional sum of £150 Consols belonging to this charity standing in the names of three trustees.

1651. Thomas Hilliard bequeathed, in 1651, the sum of ten shillings per annum, to four poor widows of the parish.

\* The Lord Althorp in 1780.

The money was charged upon a house in Wimbledon, but a certain tenant refusing to pay it, and the then churchwardens not thinking it worth while to enforce the claim, *this charity was lost.*

The house upon which the claim was charged was the one known as Claremont House, near the south-east corner of the Common. The last occupier who paid was a Mrs. Pigott, but she it was who at length refused to do so.

1748. A legacy of £100 was left by Mrs. Ann Lordell, to be distributed under the direction of her executor, William Hanger, Esq., in open vestry. This was done July 24th, 1748.

1797. Gerard de Visme, Esq., gave two sums of £10 a year each, to be kept separate, the one for repairs of his family tomb, the other for distribution in bread to the poor during the winter months. This is paid by the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery in October, to the incumbent of Wimbledon, upon his producing an affidavit of the fact of his incumbency. In 1860, a surplus exceeding £200 had accumulated from the former annuity. By the direction of the Hon. Lady Murray, who was entitled to this surplus, it has been invested in the purchase of £220 consols, the interest to be applied towards apprenticing the children of poor persons resident in the parish.

1798. Mrs. Elizabeth Simons gave the interest of £200 Three per Cent. Consols, to be applied for "the benefit of the poor, at the discretion of the minister."

This charity, which stands in the names of three trustees, has hitherto usually been applied to apprenticing children.

1802. William Gonston, Esq., gave the interest of £500, now New Three per Cent. Stock, to be laid out annually in bread for the poor during the winter months.

This charity stands in the name of three trustees.

1837. James Rose, Esq., charged some cottages in South Place, Ridgway, near the Swan inn, with the payment of £5 per annum, for the repairs of his tomb, any surplus which may remain to be expended for the benefit of the poor.

1852. George Bray, Esq., of Wellington Road, St. John's Wood, bequeathed £500 to the poor of the parish of Wimbledon. His estate was administered by the Court of Chancery, and the stock thence transferred to the Charitable Trust Commissioners is £474. 15s. 3d. consols, the interest of which is received from them by the incumbent and churchwardens of Wimbledon, as trustees, by whom it is distributed to the poor through the district visitors.

1854. Mrs. Charlotte Marryat gave, by will, £500 London Dock Stock, standing in the names of trustees, to be applied to the Almshouse Fund. Also, £3. 5s. 10d. per annum, the interest of £109. 14s. 9d. consols, standing in the names of three trustees, to be applied for the benefit of the poor, at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens.

1855. John Johnson, Esq., bequeathed £1,038. 2s. Three per Cent. Consols, standing originally in the names of three trustees, now in the names of the Charity Commissioners (designated "The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds,") to be applied (after the repairs of his tomb when required) to the relief of a limited number of poor widowers and widows, not receiving parish relief.

This charity is expended in the issue, every Sunday at the parish church, after morning service, of one loaf (value sixpence) and one shilling in money to *eight* people.

1858. James C. Peache, Esq., left £200 to the Almshouses, which was spent in adding a new room to each; also £150 to the National Schools, of which a part was spent in school expenses, and a part in the purchase of £100 Consols, which was added to the already existing school fund of £500.

1862. William Barker, Esq., of Barnes, bequeathed to the minister and churchwardens of the parish of Wimbledon the sum of £300 Three per Cent. Consols. The dividends are to be applied to the repairs of the family tomb at Wimbledon, and the surplus is to be expended in the purchase of

bread, and coals, to be distributed during the last week in January, in quantities of not less than 1 cwt., by the minister and churchwardens, to poor and necessitous residents in the parish.\*

#### ALMSHOUSES.

We may gather from a minute in the Vestry Book of 1750, that a parochial institution having in some respects the character of an almshouse must have existed, by an order that "Mary Greenfield be put into the room in the Alms House." Again, "that Ann Brown and Phillis Bowen be put in one room together." In the same year, however, the parish appointed a committee to take into consideration the erection of a workhouse. Still in March, 1752, we find an order that "Widow Beaches should receive a pension and a room in the *Parish Houses*," which order was issued but a month before the completion of the workhouse scheme, by the commencement of the building. Henceforth the workhouse was the refuge of the poor of Wimbledon, and much of the business of the vestry seems to have consisted in its administration. It was enlarged, and a manufactory erected at the west end in 1786. But after the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834, the poor of Wimbledon were transferred to the Kingston Union, and the workhouse of Wimbledon was consequently no longer required for paupers. The question, therefore, of converting the old workhouse into almshouses was much discussed, and after several meetings and communications with Lord Spencer, and with Mr. Lefevre on the part of the Poor Law Commissioners, it was ultimately resolved that the workhouse should be taken down, and almshouses erected on the

\* I am indebted to our incumbent, the Rev. H. W. Haygarth, for the history of many of these charities.—See Parochial Report, 1864, p. 53.

site. Lord Spencer (John Charles Earl Spencer, better known as Lord Althorp in the time of the Reform Bill) approved of the plan, and became a donor of £100. He also conveyed the workhouse and the ground adjoining (which was held by the parish as tenants at will under his lordship at a nominal rent of 6s. 8d. a year) to trustees for the benefit of the charity. The late Mrs. Marryat patronized the institution by the donation of £1,000 (for the endowment fund), in part the proceeds of a fancy fair held in her grounds, but made up by her to that sum, in addition to a donation of £50 for general purposes. Amongst the most liberal subscribers we also find the names of the Duchess of Somerset, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. S. Marryat, Justice Park, J. C. Peache, Esq., Major and Mrs. Philipps, &c. &c. But the prime mover and most active worker in the scheme, which still receives his fostering care, was our much respected fellow-parishioner Edward Holroyd, Esq., Commissioner of the Court of Bankruptcy.

#### THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

The National School was founded in 1773; the ground on which it stands, together with that occupied by the Almshouses, &c., having probably been originally enclosed from the Common. Earl Spencer transferred the property in that year to trustees for the parish of Wimbledon, signifying his intention at the same time liberally to contribute, in conjunction with Lady Spencer, towards the maintenance of the school. The school has ever since been maintained on a similar footing, and its general working carried on under the direction of a local committee, some little endowments and government grants being added towards its support. In 1834 a portion of the adjoining ground of this school was appropriated to build an infant school, with a house for the teacher and a playground for the children.

## THE VILLAGE CLUB.

Standing in a central position, at the junction of the Lingfield road with the Ridgeway, is the Wimbledon Village Club, with its lecture-hall, after designs by S. Teulon, Esq., the architect of Christ Church. The object of the institution is "to afford to the inhabitants, and more especially the working and middle classes of Wimbledon and its vicinity, opportunities of intellectual and moral improvement, and rational and social enjoyment, through the medium of a reading-room and library, lectures and classes."\* It was opened in February, 1859; and it is intended eventually to increase its operations by the formation of a local museum for the reception of specimens in natural history, or in antiquities found within a radius of six miles from the parish church. The lecture-hall, "besides being available for lectures, classes, &c., chiefly designed for the benefit of the members of the club, is, at the option of the incumbent, used for divine service free of charge, and is let out on hire for a variety of purposes—some public, some charitable, and some private; such as public meetings, rifle drill, Sunday-school classes, clothing and fuel club, &c."

There is also a Cottage Improvement Society, established in 1859, the object of which is to provide good suitable dwellings for the working classes at a moderate rent, whilst at the same time it offers itself as a profitable investment for capital.

Besides the above-mentioned charities and institutions, there are, in connection with the parochial machinery, under the direction of the incumbent, Sunday-schools for boys and

\* Rules and Regulations, p. 1. For fuller particulars the reader is referred to a little work, entitled, *Hints on the Formation of Local Museums*, by the Treasurer of the Wimbledon Museum Committee (Joseph Toynbee, Esq., F.R.S.).



girls, evening classes for youths, and parochial libraries, both at the northern portion of the parish and in the district south of the railway, called New Wimbledon;\* also a Clothing, Bedding, and Fuel Club, a District Visiting Society, Maternal Society, Provident Medical Dispensary, Friendly Society† (in conjunction with Fulham), Loan Blanket Charity, Ladies' Working Association. Besides these, a well-conducted Industrial Training school for Girls in Ridgeway Terrace; and an Infants' School, a Needlework Association ("to supply with needlework industrious and respectable poor women; also to make clothes for sale to the poor at less than cost price"), and a soup-kitchen in conjunction with Merton, in the district of New Wimbledon. These charities and associations meet with liberal support, and the handsome sums sent to the central committees after the recent appeals for the Lancashire Distress and the Bishop of London's Fund, prove, it is to be hoped, that large-hearted Christian charity is a prominent feature in the character of the inhabitants of Wimbledon.‡

\* The portion under the writer's parochial charge.

† A friendly society was established in the parish as early as 1745, but this came to an end a few years ago. The Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows have a lodge here, established January 31st, 1861. It now numbers 110 members.

‡ For fuller particulars of the Parochial Charities, the reader is referred to the incumbent's annual report. It will be there seen that besides local charities, we have many associations connected with societies devoted to home and foreign missions.

## CHAPTER X.

## CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF THE PARISH.

List of Churchwardens. Overseers. General Government.  
Proprietors.

PAROCHIAL government has much altered since the date of some of our earlier registers. Names which once implied considerable power in certain relationships, such for instance as "ale-conner," now are become obsolete. But into the history of such as these we cannot now enter. I have gone carefully year by year through all the registers and vestry books, and thus have been enabled, at the cost of labour which it may be thought perhaps a mere list of names scarcely repays, to give a somewhat imperfect list of churchwardens during the 16th century, and an almost complete list of both churchwardens and overseers since 1743. To those whose families have been long resident in the place, and who may be able to recognize herein some loved ancestral name, I chiefly dedicate the following columns :—

## CHURCHWARDENS.

1599. William Ball, Joseph Myssett.	1633. John Fenton, Thomas Sarjant.
1604. William Dymes, John Fenton.	1637. Thomas Sarjant, George Newington.
1606. John Christmas, Henry Walker.	1641. Lenigh (?) Osborne, John Christmas.
1610. Lancelot Atyou, Robert Porter.	1642. John Christmas, Tobias Fenton.
1613. Thomas Sarjant, Thomas Pound.	1648. Tobias Fenton, William Collins.

1663. John Robinson, James English.	1703. Thomas Kightt, John Fenton.
1692. John Fenton, Humphrey Buckland.	1704. John Fenton, John West.
1695. Lancelot Clarkston, John Langford.	1706. Samuel Mills, Charles Fenton.
1698. Richard Harris, Robt. Russell.	1708. Humphrey Buckland.
1700. George G. Evans, Charles Palmer.	1709. William (?)
1701. Richard Harris, Henry Guinness.	1710. William Greenfield.
	1711. John West.
	1712. Joseph Osborne.

The registers, which have hitherto given us only occasional notices of the churchwardens, fail us even in this respect about this time. The vestry books are perfect from 1743, and enable us to give an almost complete list both of churchwardens and overseers of the poor.

<i>Churchwardens.</i>	<i>Overseers.</i>
1743. George Haydon ... .. Richard Harrise ... ..	} Charles Pigott.
1744. George Haydon ... .. Swift Kirby .... ..	} Charles Pigott.
1745. Swift Kirby ... .. Richard Till ... ..	} John Solomon.
1746. Richard Till ... .. Charles Pigott ... ..	} Daniel Watney.
1747. Charles Pigott ... .. Hon. Thomas Walker ... ..	William Jennings, Thomas Wray.
1748. Charles Pigott ... .. Daniel Watney ... ..	Richard Carter, William Terry.
1749. Daniel Watney ... .. William Boddicott ... ..	George Haydon, William Terry.
1750. William Boddicott ... .. John Murfett ... ..	William Humphreys, Francis Trevour.

<i>Churchwardens.</i>	<i>Overseers.</i>
1751. John Murfett ... ..	Thomas Lewis,
William Terry ... ..	John Paterson.
1752. William Terry ... ..	John Wilson,
Swift Kirby ... ..	William Jennings.
1753. Swift Kirby ... ..	William Coatsworth,
George Haydon ... ..	Thomas Wray.
1754. George Haydon ... ..	Benjamin Hays,
John Paterson ... ..	Thomas Sawkins.
1755. John Paterson ... ..	} Edward Winchester.
Daniel Watney ... ..	
1756. Daniel Watney ... ..	William Walker,
Thomas Sawkins ... ..	Joseph Freeman.
1757. Thomas Sawkins ... ..	John Paterson,
William Jennings ... ..	William Ireland.
1758. William Jennings ... ..	} The same.
Edward Winchester ... ..	
1759. Edward Winchester ... ..	George Haydon,
William Ireland ... ..	Thomas Hopkins.
1760. William Ireland ... ..	Daniel Watney,
William Terry ... ..	William Marshall.
1761. William Ireland ... ..	Swift Kirby,
George Haydon ... ..	William Boddicott.
1762. George Haydon ... ..	William Ireland,
Thomas Hopkins ... ..	Charles Dacre.
1763. Thomas Hopkins ... ..	Thomas Wray,
John Paterson ... ..	William Watney.
1764. John Paterson ... ..	William Jennings,
William Walker ... ..	Edward Winchester.
1765. William Walker ... ..	Joseph Freeman,
Daniel Watney ... ..	John Chesterman.
1766. Daniel Watney ... ..	William Chainey,
Swift Kirby ... ..	William Ireland.
1767. Swift Kirby ... ..	Thomas Goddard,
William Boddicott ... ..	John Martin.

<i>Churchwardens.</i>			<i>Overseers.</i>		
1768.	William Boddicott	... ..	Thomas Hopkins,		
	Edward Winchester	... ..	Charles Newsham Pigott		
1769.	Edward Winchester	... ..	William Gonston,		
	William Jennings	... ..	John Carter.		
1770.	William Jennings	... ..	{	John Bridger,	
	Thomas Goddard...	... ..		William Chainey,	
				James Jennings.	
1771.	Thomas Goddard...	... ..	{	Thomas Watney,	
	William Gonston...	... ..		James Jennings,	
				Thomas Wray.	
1772.	William Gonston...	... ..	{	John Edwards,	
	William Watney...	... ..		Richard Peacock,	
				James Jennings.	
1773.	William Watney...	... ..	{	William Rose,	
	John Martin...	... ..		Daniel Watney,	
				James Jennings.	
1774.	John Martin	... ..		Edward Winchester,	
	John Carter...	... ..		John Watney.	
1775.	John Carter...	... ..		John Bridger,	
	Benjamin Hays	... ..		John Humphry.	
1776.	John Carter...	... ..		Corbyn Morris,	
	William Rose	... ..		Thomas Watney.	
1777.	William Rose	... ..		William Lawrence,	
	Corbyn Morris	... ..		John Humphry.	
1778.	Corbyn Morris	... ..		William Lawrence,	
	Charles Newsham Pigott	... ..		Samuel Mason.	
1779.	Charles Newsham Pigott	... ..		William Watney,	
	William Rose (?)	... ..		John Eyles.	
1780.	Charles N. Pigott	... ..	{	William Everatt.	
	Thomas Watney	... ..			
1781.	Thomas Watney	... ..		George Bond,	
	Richard Gaire	... ..		Benjamin Bond Hopkins.	
1782.	Richard Gaire	... ..		John Martin,	
	John Edwards	... ..		Samuel Castill.	

<i>Churchwardens.</i>	<i>Overseers.</i>
1783. John Edwards ... ..	Charles Newsham Pigott
Benjamin Bond Hopkins ...	George Chamberlaine.
1784. B. B. Hopkins ... ..	} Robert Nettleton.
John Watney ... ..	
1785. John Watney ... ..	John Hierons,
George Chamberlaine ... ..	James Rose.
1786. George Chamberlaine ...	William Jennings,
Richard Peacock ... ..	Edward Eades.
1787. The same ... ..	} Benjamin Patterson,
1788. Charles Edward Wilsonn ...	Thomas Dicker,
Samuel Mason ... ..	Thomas Saunders.
1789. Samuel Mason ... ..	William Gower,
Benjamin Patterson ... ..	John Watney.
1790. Benjamin Patterson ... ..	} William Gonston.
William Everatt... ..	
1791. William Everatt ... ..	John Edwards,
John Hierons ... ..	James Terry.
1792. John Hierons ... ..	James Terry,
William Jennings ... ..	James Steele.
1793. William Jennings ... ..	James Steele,
John Terry ... ..	William Eades.
1794. William Jennings ... ..	William Eades,
Thomas Saunders ... ..	John Woodman.
1795. Thomas Saunders ... ..	George Neaves,
John Watney ... ..	John Withem.
1796. John Watney ... ..	Edward Penner,
William Gonston ... ..	Samuel Mason, Jun.
1797. William Gonston... ..	Richard Carter,
James Steele... ..	Thomas Watta.
1798. James Steele... ..	Richard Baker,
William Eades ... ..	Ralph Hobbs.
1799. William Eades ... ..	Richard Baker,
John Woodman ... ..	William Jennings.

<i>Churchwardens.</i>				<i>Overseers.</i>
1800.	John Woodman	...	...	Richard Peacock,
	George Neaves	...	...	Thomas Watney.
1801.	George Neaves	...	...	Richard Peacock,
	John Withem	...	...	Thomas Mason.
1802.	John Withem	...	...	Thomas Mason,
	Edward Penner	...	...	Thomas Campen.
1803.	Edward Penner	...	...	Thomas Campen,
	Samuel Mason	...	...	Henry Hayter.
1804.	Samuel Mason	...	...	Robert Reid,
	John Edwards	...	...	Richard Roffey.
1805.	John Edwards	...	...	Mathew Watney,
	Richard Carter	...	...	Thomas Vials.
1806.	Richard Carter	...	...	Thomas Woodward,
	Thomas Mason	...	...	Stephen Naish.
1807.	Thomas Mason	...	...	John Blincowe,
	Thomas Campen	...	...	William Plowman.
1808.	Thomas Campen	...	...	John Blincowe,
	Richard Peacock	...	...	Thomas Pace.
1809.	Richard Peacock	...	...	Thomas Pace,
	Robert Reid...	...	...	William Croft.
1810.	Robert Reid	...	...	William Croft,
	Richard Roffey	...	...	William Blackford.
1811.	Richard Roffey	...	...	William Blackford,
	Mathew Watney	...	...	Isaac Hellier.
1812.	Mathew Watney	...	...	} Isaac Hellier.
	Thomas Vials	...	...	
1813.	Thomas Vials	...	...	Isaac Hellier,
	Stephen Naish	...	...	Christopher MacEvoy.
1814.	Stephen Naish	...	...	James Oakman,
	Thomas Woodward	...	...	William Alder.
1815.	Thomas Woodward	...	...	William Alder,
	Thomas Blincowe	...	...	Robert Reid.

	<i>Churchwardens.</i>	<i>Overseers.</i>
1816.	John Blincowe ... .. Thomas Pace ... ..	Robert Reid, Thomas Watney.
1817.	Thomas Pace ... .. William Croft ... ..	Thomas Watney, Thomas Mason.
1818.	William Croft ... .. William Blackford ... ..	Thomas Mason, William Eades.
1819.	William Blackford ... .. Isaac Hellier... ..	Thomas Pace, Samuel Mason.
1820.	Isaac Hellier... .. Thomas Watney ... ..	Rev. Joshua Ruddock, William Coles.
1821.	Thomas Watney ... .. Thomas Mason ... ..	Benjamin Paterson, Thomas Bennett.
1822.	Thomas Mason ... .. Joseph Marryat, Jun... ..	} The same.
1823.	Joseph Marryat, Jun... .. Thomas Bennett ... ..	
1824.	Thomas Bennett ... .. George Brown ... ..	} The same.
1825.	John Johnson ... .. • Samuel Hudson ... ..	
1826.	John Johnson ... .. John Sedgwick ... ..	John Bishop, Benjamin Burt.
1827.	John Johnson ... .. Isaac Hellier... ..	Edward Eades, John Cumbers.
1828.	The same ... ..	{ John Leach Bennett, William Strachan.
1829.	John Leach Bennett ... .. John Bishop... ..	William Paterson. James Oakman.
1830.	John Bishop... .. Benjamin Burt ... ..	William Blackford, Thomas Partridge.
1831.	Benjamin Burt ... .. John Cumbers ... ..	John Casswell, William Parsons.



<i>Churchwardens.</i>				<i>Overseers.</i>	
1832.	John Cumbers	...	...	William Parsons,	
	Edward Eades	...	...	Daniel Mason.	
1833.	Edward Eades	...	...	Daniel Mason,	
	James Oakman	...	...	George Croft.	
1834.	James Oakman	...	...	George Croft,	
	William Paterson	...	...	Samuel Humphreys.	
1835.	William Paterson	...	...	James Holland,	
	George Croft...	...	...	Gore Currie.	
1836.	George Croft...	...	...	James Holland,	
	James Holland	...	...	Daniel Withem.	
1837.	The same...	...	...	{ Daniel Withem,	
				{ Colonel A. Hogg.	
1838.	James Holland	...	...	Henry Bowden,	
	J. C. Peache...	...	...	William Mason.	
1839.	J. C. Peache...	...	...	Henry Bowden,	
	William Mason	...	...	John Malleson.	
1840.	William Mason	...	...	John Malleson,	
	William Brown	...	...	Michael Ogden.	
1841.	William Brown	...	...	Michael Ogden,	
	Daniel Withem	...	...	Thomas Mason.	
1842.	Daniel Withem	...	...	Thomas Mason,	
	Thomas Davies	...	...	Benjamin Burt.	
1843.	Thomas Davies	...	...	George Hellier,	
	J. C. Peache	...	...	William Packer.	
1844.	J. C. Peache	...	...	George Hellier,	
	Daniel Mason	...	...	John Ashby.	
1845.	Daniel Mason	...	...	George Hellier,	
	J. L. Bennett	...	...	John Goswell.	
1846.	J. L. Bennett	...	...	John Goswell,	
	Benjamin Burt	...	...	James Martin.	
1847.	Benjamin Burt	...	...	John Goswell,	
	Edward Holroyd...	...	...	John Watney.	
1848.	Edward Holroyd	...	...	} The same.	
	George Croft	...	...		

<i>Churchwardens.</i>				<i>Overseers.</i>
1849.	George Croft	...	...	John Goswell,
	Edward Holroyd	...	...	Edward Housego.
1850.	Edward Holroyd	...	...	John Goswell,
	Thomas Mason	...	...	William Finch.
1851.	Thomas Mason	...	...	George Gunner.
	T. S. Clarke	...	...	John F. Eales.
1852.	T. S. Clarke	...	...	William H. Oakes,
	Stephen Carter	...	...	James Crouch.
1853.	Stephen Carter	...	...	Francis H. Eales,
	E. D. Bourdillon	...	...	Frederick Wallis.
1854.	T. S. Clarke	...	...	George Dunnnett,
	Stephen Carter	...	...	John Kennaway.
1855.	Stephen Carter	...	...	John Kennaway,
	Thomas Devas	...	...	John Siggers.
1856.	J. C. Peache	...	...	John Kennaway,
	William Mason	...	...	William Blackford.
1857.	William Mason	...	...	William Mason,
	Hon. C. Gore	...	...	David S. Thompson.
1858.	Colonel Oliphant	...	...	Richard J. Strachan,
	Michael Ogden	...	...	George Dowden.
1859.	Michael Ogden	...	...	} The same.
	Colonel Oliphant	...	...	
1860.	G. F. Pollock	...	...	Ebenezer Morris,
	Michael Ogden	...	...	George Dowden.
1861.	The same	...	...	{ Ebenezer Morris, John Oakman.
1862.	The same	...	...	
1863.	The same	...	...	{ John Oakman, James Standen.
1864.	The same	...	...	

The vestry books of past years show a spirit of determination and of self-government amongst the inhabitants of Wimbledon. For instance, in 1750, we find "a method to preserve the peace and safety of our little community." And so the order from Vestry runs as follows:—"All persons

collecting alms on pretences of loss by fire or other casualty, all strolling players, and jugglers and gypsies, all persons playing and abetting all unlawful games, and persons wandering abroad and lodging in ale-houses, barns, outhouses, or in the open air, not giving a good account of themselves, pretending to be soldiers, marriners, seafaring men, and all other persons wandering abroad and begging, are deemed rogues and vagabonds, who may be taken up by any person, who are to have 10s. for each person, paid by the High Constable, and the offender to be publickly whipped or sent to the House of Correction till the next general sessions."

In the winter of the same year (Dec. 18, 1750), the clergyman of the parish received a letter, threatening "to burn the houses, barns, ricks of corn and hay, and to poison the water, grass, or cattle, within the said parish, if he, the said minister, did not collect from the parishioners the sum of three pounds, and leave it in a certain place therein named." A reward of £20 was offered by vestry for the discovery of the offender, but nothing more seems to have been heard of him.

As might be suspected in the neighbourhood of a growing metropolis, land in Wimbledon has become very valuable, and large properties have consequently been much subdivided. The parochial assessment on houses and lands reaches £45,000 per annum. The following are the principal landed proprietors, whose acres range from several hundred to about thirty:—J. A. Beaumont, Esq.; H. W. Peek, Esq.; G. Bridge, Esq.; Major Philipps; Captain Philipps; J. S. W. S. E. Drax, Esq., M.P.; Rev. A. Peache; T. Devas, Esq.; Rev. J. M. Brackenbury. Many others hold smaller estates, adjoining their houses or grounds.

## CHAPTER XI.

## FORMER INHABITANTS AND THEIR HOUSES.

Peter de Aqua Blanca, John de Mazon, and other early inhabitants. Lord Burleigh. Sir Edward Betenson. Sir William Draper. Lord Grenville. Sir Henry Banks. Vulture Hopkins. Benjamin Bond Hopkins. Mons. Calonne. Marquis of Stafford. Sir Stephen Lushington. Prince de Condé. Joseph Marryat. Sir William Congreve. Sir Francis Burdett. Earl Bathurst. Sir Henry Murray. William Wilberforce. Bishop Van Mildert. Justice Richardson. John Murray. William Gifford. Lady Anne Barnard. Captain Marryat. John Horne Tooke. Lyde Browne. Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst. Henry Dundas, Lord Melville. Duke Cannizaro. William Benson. Arthur Tyton. Marquis of Rockingham. Charles James Fox. Lord Chancellor Cottenham. Duke of Wellington. Thomas Tooke. Sir Richard Hotham. Justice Park. James Perry. Earl Nelson.

NOT the least interesting feature of our parochial history is found in the older houses, which either skirt the Common or are scattered over other parts of the parish. Not that we can boast of antiquity here. We have none of the fine old gables of Chester. Other villages in the neighbourhood might doubtless exhibit houses of an earlier date. But our pride lies in the fact that, besides the list of "*historical*" lords of the manor, whose names and deeds have already been given, Wimbledon can show a list of residents equally great and good, who have chosen its rural scenes as a retreat from the turmoil of parliamentary life, the labours of the law, and even from the shock of revolutions. This will be best proved, perhaps, by a glimpse at some of these houses, and by short sketches of their earlier occupants.

We may first mention a few inhabitants of very early

times, the site of whose houses we cannot now trace. *Peter de Aqua blanca*, who was Bishop of Hereford from 1240 to 1269, held a house at Wimbledon under the archbishop.\* The same person bought a messuage and house here for the bishopric of Hereford, of James de Stanes, citizen of London, for which he paid seventy marks.† This bishop was born in Savoy, and according to Godwin, beggared the clergy by exactions for the king. The barons, under Henry III., arrested him in his own cathedral, seized his goods, and divided his treasures amongst their soldiers before his face, and imprisoned him for a long time. He was buried in Hereford Cathedral, and a monument was erected over him.

Adam, son of Ralph de Aqua, gave to William Faukes a culture of land in Wimbledon called Blackland or Blake-land, containing twenty acres‡ (no date), the same ground, probably, as that mentioned at page 24, as the cause of a dispute between the Prior of Merton and the master of St. Thomas's Hospital.

Incidentally, we also meet in history with the names of other early inhabitants of our parish. For instance, in the records relating to a robbery of the Exchequer 31 Edw. I., we meet with one of the culprits under the name of John de Mazon, of Wimbledon.§

Again, in a record of an ordination held at Wimbledon on the vigil of the Trinity, June, 1286, by Archbishop Peckham, we find, amongst other candidates for holy orders, Adam of Wymbeldon, and John, called Payn of Wymbeldon.||

The Testa de Nevill says that Robert de Wymbeldon held one-third of a knight's fee in Wymbeldon of the Archbishop of Canterbury.¶

These were some of the earlier inhabitants; of scarcely

\* Cartulary of the See of Canterbury, Bodleian Library, f. 136.

† Blount's MS. collections for Herefordshire, quoted by Manning, p. 267.

‡ Muniments of St. Thomas's Hospital.

§ Palgrave's *Anc. Calendar and Inventories*, vol. i. 264.

|| *Lambeth Register*, Peckham, fol. 94 b.

¶ Page 221.

any can we give a further history. But passing on to later centuries, we find men whose lives have been known and written coming to settle in our village. We have spoken of Lord Burleigh in our chapter on the Manor. He ought, doubtless, to have been introduced here, as he was never lord of the manor, nor did he live in the Manor House; but he was so intimately connected with the other Cecils, that we could scarcely move him from their side. We begin, however, now with another family, still related, but more remotely, and naturally falling into its position in the present chapter. The mansion now bearing the name of Eagle House, used as a school by the Rev. Dr. Huntingford, was built about the beginning of the seventeenth century; for the survey of 1617 calls it a "fair new house belonging to Mr. Bell." It afterwards became the seat of the Betensons, who were connected with the Cecils.

The following pedigree will give some little history of this family:—

I. SIR RICHARD BETENSON, Knt., of Laver de la Hay, in Essex, was created a baronet by Charles II. 7th Feb., 1666.

He married Anne, d. of Sir William Monyns, of Waldershare, in Kent, and had issue

*Richard*, who m. Albinia, d. of Sir Christopher Wray, Knt. (by his wife Hon. Albinia Cecil, one of the d. and co-heirs of Edward Viscount Wimbledon), and dying in the lifetime of his father, left

II. EDWARD, successor to his grandfather.

*Theodosia*, m. to Maj.-Gen. William Farrington, of Chiselhurst, and had

*Thomas Farrington*, Commissioner of Excise.

*Albinia Farrington*, who became second wife of Robert Bertie, first Duke of Lancaster.

*Frances*, m. to Sir Thomas Hewet, Knt., of Shire Oaks, Notts.

*Dorothy*, d. unmarried.

*Edward*, of Lincoln's Inn, m. Catherine, eldest daughter of Sir John Rayney, Bart., of Wrotham, in Kent, and dying in 1700, left an only son Edward, who inherited as third Bart.

Sir Richard d. Aug. 29, 1679, was buried at Chiselhurst, Kent, and succeeded by his grandson—

III. SIR EDWARD BETENSON, b. in 1675, died unmarried 17th Oct., 1733, when his estates—comprising lands in Chiselhurst and Greenwich, in Kent, at Wimbledon, at several places in Essex, and an estate in London, devolved upon his sisters as co-heirs, and the Baronetcy reverted to his cousin—

IV. SIR EDWARD BETENSON, m. Ursula, d. of John Nicks, Esq., of Fort St. George, merchant, and had

*Richard*, his successor, and *Helen*.

He died 24th Nov., 1762, and was s. by his son—

V. SIR RICHARD BETENSON, m. Lucretia, d. and co-heir of Martin Folkes, Esq., of Hillingdon, in Norfolk, P.R.S., but dying s. p. 15th June, 1786, the Baronetcy became extinct.

Arms, a fess. gu. in chief, lion passant within a bordure engrailed ermine.

This house was afterwards in the occupation of a *marquis* of Bath; then of Sir William Draper, K.B., a distinguished military officer. He was born at Bristol in 1721, and after studying at Eton and Cambridge, he entered the army, and served with credit in the East Indies, particularly at the taking of Madras in 1758. Having received his colonelcy two years later, he commanded a brigade at the capture of Belleisle, and afterwards accompanied the expedition to the Manillas under Admiral Cornish. On his return home he was honoured with the knighthood of the Bath, but fell under the lash of Junius, in consequence of his attempt to defend the Marquis of Granby from the charges brought against him by the anonymous censor. He was subsequently lieutenant-governor of Minorca under General Murray, against whom he laid accusations which he failed to substantiate. He died at Bath in 1787. The house was afterwards occupied by the Right Honourable Lord Grenville.

William Wyndham Grenville Grenville, third son of the Right Hon. George Grenville, was born 1759. At both Eton and Oxford he acquired great distinction by his

classical powers. He entered Parliament in 1782, and was appointed, in 1783, by his kinsman Pitt (at that time, be it remembered, a frequent visitor at Wimbledon in the house of Wilberforce) Paymaster-General of the forces. In January, 1789, he was chosen Speaker, though strongly opposed by Fox and Burke, on the ground of his youth and inexperience. But a few months later he was appointed Secretary of State for Home Affairs, became Pitt's principal colleague, and in November, 1790, was raised to the peerage by the title of Lord Grenville. In 1801 he quitted office with his chief, supported Earl Grey, and afterwards Canning, but did not take office himself. He was elected Chancellor of the University of Oxford in 1809, Lord Eldon being at that time a candidate. He was an able speaker and a good man of business, and though somewhat haughty, had great influence in the House of Lords. He was an earnest supporter of Mr. Wilberforce in his endeavours to suppress the slave trade. He spent the closing years of his life in retirement at Dropmore, in Buckinghamshire, where he died January 12th, 1834. He married Anne Pitt, daughter of the first Lord Camelford, but left no issue. His title, therefore, died with him. After Lord Grenville left Wimbledon, his house was purchased as a school by the Rev. T. Lancaster, for which purpose it has been used ever since.

The house which is now the property of H. W. Peek, Esq., and is called Wimbledon House, was probably built about the middle of the last century. The first possessor of whom we hear was Sir Henry Bankes, Knt., and alderman of London, who died in 1774.\* It became in 1777 the property of Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Esq., the inheritor of the vast wealth accumulated by the well-known John Hopkins, or more commonly styled "Vulture Hopkins," a character sufficiently famous to demand a few lines of explanation here, inasmuch as his family has ever been intimately connected with Wimbledon.

\* See page 91.



John Hopkins was a London merchant residing in Old Broad Street, who acquired a vast fortune, which he increased in the speculations of 1720. He earned for himself the nickname of "vulture" from his great rapacity, which brought him under the indignant satire of Pope, who exclaims:

"When Hopkins dies, a thousand lights attend  
The wretch who living saved a candle's end."

And again, when classing him with the Duke of Wharton, Colonel Charteris, Japhet Crook, and others, he asks, speaking of riches,

"What can they give—to dying Hopkins heirs?"

Pope adds his estimate of Hopkins in a note which is found appended to this line. "He lived worthless, but died worth £300,000, which he would give to no person living, but left it so as not to be inherited till after the second generation. His counsel representing to him how many years it must be before this could take effect, and that his money could only lie at interest all that time, he expressed great joy thereat, and said 'They would then be as long in spending as he had been in getting it.' But the Chancery afterwards set aside the will, and gave it to the heir-at-law."

Now as a few words of cruel satire often adhere long after the truth or falsehood which called them forth may be forgotten, let us see whether the real state of the case gives us the same view of Hopkins' will as the words of Pope. Let us, if we can, rescue the founder of one of our most respectable Wimbledon families from so mean an aspersion.

John Hopkins' will is dated Nov. 10, 1729, and he thereby devised a farm in Surrey (called New-Place Farm) to his cousin, a man of no education, then serving in the capacity of a farmer's servant, unable, therefore, in the opinion of the testator, properly to appreciate the use of the immense wealth which would belong to him if he were made heir to everything in the testator's possession. This

cousin, John Hopkins, son of the testator's late uncle, Samuel Hopkins, was to receive New-Place Farm for life. All the remainder of his real estate was given to Sir Richard Hopkins, Knt., John Rudge, and James Hopkins, and their heirs, upon trust for *Samuel Hopkins* (son of John Hopkins the cousin) for his life, with remainder to his first and other sons in tail male,—remainder

For all such other sons as John Hopkins the cousin should have, for their respective lives—with like remainders to their issue male—remainder

For the first and other sons of Sarah (the eldest daughter of John Hopkins the cousin) for their lives, with like remainders to their issue male; with like remainders for Mary (2nd), Elizabeth (3rd), Hannah (4th daughter), respectively; with divers remainders over.

Samuel, son of John Hopkins the cousin, afterwards died in the testator's lifetime.

1732, April 25.—Testator died.

1732, Oct. 25.—The Master of the Rolls declared that John Hopkins the cousin was entitled to the rents of the testator's estate accrued since his death, till some person should come into being that should be entitled to an estate for life, according to the limitations of the will.

1734, Nov. 18.—Confirmed by Lord Chancellor Talbot.

1736, June 18.—John Hopkins the cousin had a son born, named William, who died Dec. 24, 1736.

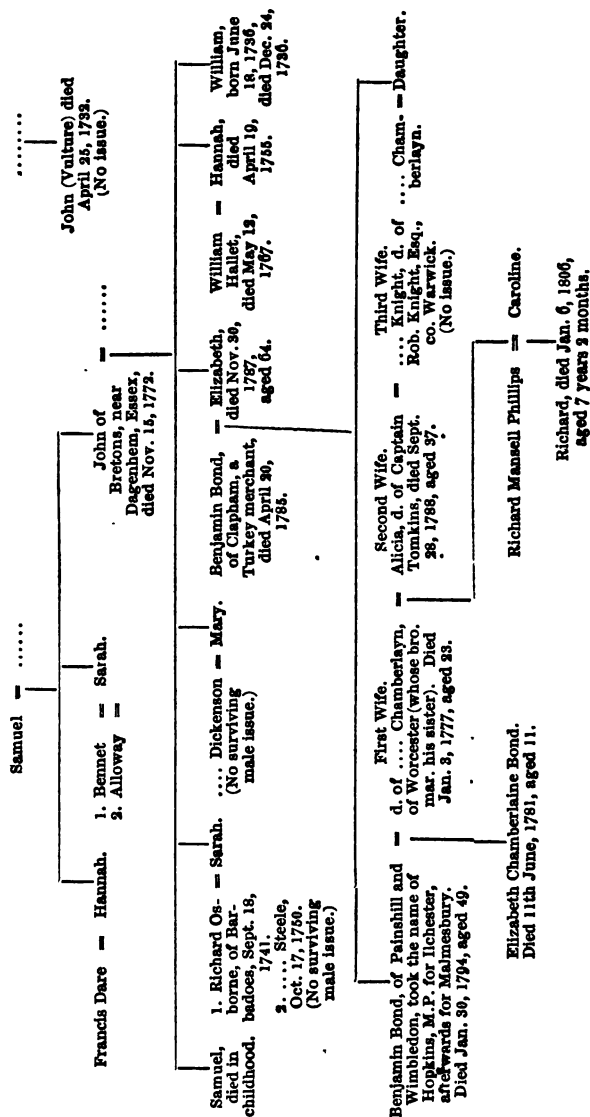
1739, Aug. 6.—Order for rents due from William Hopkins' death to be paid to his father, John Hopkins, the testator's cousin.

1772, Nov. 15.—John Hopkins the cousin died without leaving any son, or any descendant from any son. The two elder daughters died without male issue.

Therefore Benjamin Bond, son of Elizabeth (3rd daughter of John Hopkins the cousin) by Benjamin Bond, Esq., her husband, became, by virtue of the testator's will, the first tenant in tail of all his estates.

The solution of the whole matter appears to be this. At

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the time when Vulture Hopkins made his will, the person whom he nominated his heir was a minor. All the restriction laid upon him was that he should attain the age of twenty-one before enjoying the property. This was not unnatural. He died, however, before the testator. Another son (heir in his turn) was born to John Hopkins the cousin. He also died. The delay, therefore, was rather the effect of peculiar circumstances than of any misanthropic eccentricity of poor Vulture.\*

Benjamin Bond Hopkins laid out the grounds of Wimbledon House, and constructed a cascade and grotto, under the direction of the celebrated Bushell, the designer of the grottos at Painshill and Oatlands. Mr. Bond Hopkins eventually removed to Painshill, and sold his Wimbledon house and grounds in 1791 to Monsieur Calonne, then a refugee in England.

Charles Alexander de Calonne was born at Douai, January 20th, 1734, his father being president of the Parliament in that place. Having studied for the bar, and shown great abilities, he was appointed *Maitre des Requêtes* at the early age of twenty-five. Some time after he was created Count of Harmonville, and nominated Intendant or Viceroy of Strasbourg, where he continued till the reign of Louis XVI., when he was made Chancellor of the Exchequer, Knight of the Holy Ghost, and Prime Minister of France. His financial measures were bold and decisive; and by his proposition to tax the privileged classes, with a view to liquidate the debt contracted by his predecessors, as well as during his own tenure of office, he incurred their united displeasure, and was eventually obliged to leave the country and take shelter in England. In his town house, near Hyde-Park Corner, and in his country house at Wimbledon, he now cultivated that taste which he had imbibed in early childhood, by collecting rich works of art, especially

\* *Gentleman's Mag.*, vol. LVIII. pt. I. 511; also pt. II. 573. Cf. abstract of his will, *Gent. Mag.*, 1732, vol. II. 832.

paintings. As a mere boy, he had saved his weekly allowance to purchase a small picture of Wouverman, and as a young man his eager anxiety had been to obtain a work of Correggio. After some years he became the happy possessor of the "St. Sebastian," by that master. These formed the foundation of that noble collection which (in addition to the cabinet formed by Monsieur d'Arveley, whose widow he married) occupied him during five-and-thirty years of careful selection, and cost him upwards of sixty thousand guineas. When, however, the revolution broke out in France, Calonne did not hesitate to sacrifice the amusements he enjoyed in his life of tranquil retirement, and left England to join the princes and several of the French nobility at Coblenz, selling his fine collection, that he might assist his friends in their hour of need.

Whilst a resident here he cultivated the friendship and society of artists, amongst whom Sir Joshua Reynolds held the most conspicuous place. He died at Paris, in 1802, of a complaint in the lungs, after an illness of only twelve days.\*

It was about 1792 that M. Calonne quitted Wimbledon, selling his estate to the Right Hon. Earl Gower, afterwards Marquis of Stafford, for £15,000.† The marquis sold it in 1798 to Sir Stephen Lushington, who for some time represented Ashburton in Parliament. He was for many years a director of the East-India Company, and more than once chairman of the board.

In 1810 it became the retreat of Louis Joseph de

\* *Gent. Mag.*, vol. LXXII. pt. II.

† We need not go into the history of this family, still so well known to us. Suffice to say that it is descended from Alan, *thane* of Sutherland, a man of great power and authority in the reign of King Duncan, and Macbeth the usurper. He repelled with his vassals and followers the invasion of Olaus, king of the Danes, and drove him out of Ross-shire in 1031, but was murdered himself by Macbeth. His son Walter, *thane* of Sutherland, was created Earl of Sutherland in 1057. From him the subsequent earls, and of late years the dukes of Sutherland, are descended.

Bourbon, Prince of Condé, who was the only son of the Duke of Bourbon. He was born in 1736. Louis XV. conferred on him the post of grand master of the household, and also made him governor of Burgundy, both which appointments were held in trust for him till he came of age. In the Seven Years' war he distinguished himself greatly, particularly at the battles of Hastenbeck and Minden; but his most brilliant exploit was the defeat of the hereditary prince of Brunswick, at Johannisberg, in 1762. After the peace he cultivated literature, took great interest in architecture, and built the Bourbon Palace. His country seat was at Chantilly, where he devoted himself to relieve the wants of the poor, especially during the season of great distress in 1775. On the breaking out of the Revolution he left France, took shelter in Turin, and eventually in Germany. In 1792 he headed an army of the Royalists, and distinguished himself at the battle of Burstheim. When peace was proclaimed between Austria and the Republic, he entered the Russian service. After the campaign of 1800 he came to England, and on the 26th of December, 1808, he married the Princess Dowager de Monaco. She died at Wimbledon, March 28th, 1813. Her coffin was laid out in state in one of the rooms, and was taken on April 4th, by torchlight, to the Roman Catholic chapel at Somers Town, where a grand solemn dirge was performed, and on the 5th her remains were interred in a vault under the chapel, most of the foreign ambassadors being present. In 1814 the prince returned to France with his family, and afterwards accompanied Louis XVIII. to Ghent. At his leisure he wrote the life of his illustrious ancestor, the great Condé. He died at Paris in 1818; he was the last of the Condés, his son modestly refusing to take the title, as considering himself unworthy to succeed his father, "who so long commanded the French nobility in their glorious exertions to defend the cause of the monarchy." The prince bequeathed £50 to the poor of Wanstead, and £50 to the poor of Woodford, in remembrance of the hospitable asylum afforded

him during his long absence from France. Wimbledon does not appear to have received any legacy.\*

Wimbledon House was purchased in 1815 by Joseph Marryat, Esq., an eminent merchant and parliamentary speaker on West Indian affairs. He was born in 1757, at Bristol, where his father, Dr. Thomas Marryat, practised as a physician. Joseph engaged in mercantile pursuits, residing, during the early part of his career, in the West Indies and North America. In 1789 he returned to England, became a member of Lloyds, a banker, and colonial agent for Grenada and Trinidad. He was elected M.P. for Sandwich. He published several clever anonymous pamphlets; and with his name, also published his "Speech in the House of Commons on Mr. Manning's Motion respecting Marine Insurances," "Observations on the Report of the Committee on Marine Insurance," and "Thoughts on the Expediency of establishing a new Chartered Bank." He died suddenly, of ossification of the heart, January, 1824. Mrs. Marryat, F.H.S.,† his widow, continued to reside here till 1854, devoting much time and money to the cultivation of her beautiful gardens, which were considered the finest in the neighbourhood of London. Here flourished some of the rarest flowers, whilst the park contained, besides fine old oaks and beeches, a large cork-tree, a very fine *Ligustrum lucidum*, some large evergreen oaks, a red cedar, a *Rhododendron ponticum*, *Magnolia acuminata*, *Pinus serotina*, and other American trees, which were originally planted in these grounds when first introduced into England.

The present possessor, H. W. Peek, Esq., J.P., seems equally anxious to maintain the beauty of these grounds.‡

Sir William Congreve, the inventor of the rocket called

\* Cf. *Gent. Mag.*, vol. 73, 1126; vol. 83 (I.), 393; vol. 88 (II.), 265, 460. Also Rose's *Biograph. Diet.*

† Third daughter of the late Frederic Gear, Esq., of Boston, North America.

‡ For a detailed description of the grounds, see Loudon's *Suburban Gardener*.

by his name, was a resident in Wimbledon for some time. He lived in the house opposite H. W. Peek, Esq., now occupied by G. Love, Esq. An old inhabitant says that he remembers him making experiments with his rockets on the Common, and offering rewards of pence to little boys who would bring him back the tubes after they had fallen, which now and then became a matter of danger to the too eager urchins, excited as they were in their attempts to obtain a prize. Sir William was born in 1772, being the eldest son of Sir William Congreve, of Walton, in Staffordshire. He entered the Artillery service at an early age, became lieutenant-colonel in 1816, and retired in 1820. In 1811 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, his rocket having done much service in several sieges, and having therefore gained him a scientific reputation. In 1812 he was M.P. for Gatton, and from 1820—1826 for Plymouth. He succeeded to the baronetcy in 1814, and died at Toulouse in 1828.

The residence of R. Garth, Esq., was the home of Sir Francis Burdett at the time of his duel with Mr. Paull,\* and of his committal to the Tower for a breach of privilege. He was the intimate friend—we might almost say the political pupil—of J. Horne Tooke, whose residence was on the other side the Common. Sir Francis represented Westminster for thirty years, from 1807. In 1819 he addressed to his constituents a letter on the subject of the recent riots at Manchester. For this letter he was prosecuted by the Attorney-General, and being found guilty of a libel, was fined £1,000, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment in the King's Bench. Startled by the lengths to which reform had led the neighbouring nation of France, he expressed a decided change in his opinions in 1837, and stood for North Wilts instead of Westminster. He died in 1844.

Wimbledon Lodge, the residence of the Hon. Lady Murray, was built by her father, Gerard de Visme, Esq.,

\* See Chapter XIII.



an eminent merchant, who resided for many years at Lisbon. He died Nov. 20th, 1797. During her minority the house was inhabited by Earl Bathurst. He was third earl, born 22nd May, 1762; was elected M.P. for Cirencester on attaining the age of twenty-one; a few months after he became Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty. From July, 1789, until June, 1791, he sat at the Treasury Board, having, in May, 1790, succeeded the Earl of Hardwicke as Teller of the Exchequer, the reversion of which office had been previously granted to him. In 1793 he was Commissioner of the Board of Control and a Privy Councillor. The first of these offices he held till the dissolution of the ministry in 1802; he succeeded to the peerage in 1794, and moved the address in 1796. In 1804 he was Master-worker of the Mint; in 1807, President of the Board of Trade; in 1809, Secretary for Foreign Affairs for about two months. On the 11th of June, 1812, he became Secretary for the Colonies till 1828, when he was elected President of the Council, an office of which he was deprived by the accession of the Whig party to power in 1830. He was made a Knight of the Garter in 1817; he died July 26th, 1834.

The Hon. Sir Henry Murray, who married the daughter of Gerard de Visme, Esq., resided at Wimbledon, except when on duty, till the time of his death. He was a distinguished general. A more detailed account of his military exploits will be found in the epitaph which is copied from his monument at page 82.

The house which stands nearly midway between the High Street and the Crooked Billet, on the south side of the Common, now the residence of H. W. MacCaughey, Esq., was formerly the property and residence of the good, eloquent, and accomplished W. Wilberforce, Esq., father of the equally good, eloquent, and accomplished Dr. Samuel Wilberforce, present Bishop of Oxford. The philanthropist's uncle, William Wilberforce, Esq., had resided here before, and the death of his father, in 1768, transferred him to his uncle

William's care. Most of his holidays were spent at his uncle's house, and here it was that he imbibed from his aunt his first religious principles. She was a great admirer of Whitfield's preaching. "Under these influences," he writes, "my mind was interested by religious subjects. How far these impressions were genuine I can hardly determine, but at least I may venture to say that I was sincere. There are letters of mine, written at that period, still in existence, which accord much with my present sentiments." Afterwards he returned to his mother's family at Hull, where many of these sentiments were removed by the gaieties and temptations to which he was exposed. Eventually, in 1777, by the death of his uncle, he became possessed of the Wimbledon villa. Here was matured the friendship with Pitt, which had begun at college, and had been strengthened by occasional intercourse afterwards. As he was the only member of the set into which he had fallen (consisting, for the most part, of young but talented and aspiring statesmen) who possessed a villa within reach of town, his house was much visited by those who enjoyed the sweets of country after a hard day's work in the House of Commons. His villa, with some trifling alteration, gave him the command of eight or nine bed-rooms; and here Pitt, to whom it was a luxury even to sleep in country air, took up, not unfrequently, his residence, their easy familiarity permitting him to ride down late at night and occupy his rooms, even though the master of the house was kept in town. In one spring Pitt resided there four months,\* and repaired thither when, in April, 1783, he resigned his official residence to the Coalition ministry. "Eliot, Arden, and I," writes Pitt one afternoon, "will be with you before curfew, and expect

\* In later years Pitt himself occupied a house on Wimbledon Common, but beyond the boundaries of Wimbledon. We scarcely dare to venture upon any narrative of his residence there, for if we write of Pitt, why not of Gibbon? and if of Gibbon, why not of other distinguished men who have lived in that neighbourhood?

an early meal of peas and strawberries. Bankes, I suppose, will not sleep out of Duke Street, but he has not yet appeared in the House of Commons. Half-past four."

Numerous short entries in his diary show us the happy freedom of Mr. Wilberforce's Wimbledon life at this period. "One morning," so Wilberforce writes, "we found the fruits of Pitt's earlier rising in the careful sowing of the garden-beds with the fragments of a dress-hat with which Ryder had come down from the opera."

"Feb. 29th, 1782.—Morning frosty, but extremely fine. Church—Lindseys—the chariot to Wimbledon. Pitt, &c. to dine and sleep.

"April 3rd.—Wimbledon, where Pitt, &c. dined and slept. Evening walk—bed a little past two. 4th.—Delicious day; lounged morning at Wimbledon with friends, *joining* at night, and ran about the garden for an hour or two.

"Sunday, May 18th.—To Wimbledon with Pitt and Eliot, at their persuasion.

"Sunday, July 6th.—Wimbledon. Persuaded Pitt and Pepper to church."

Again, in 1785.—"Sir G. Beaumont and Lady Phipps, &c. to dine with me at Wimbledon.—Phipps's chat from Locke to New Testament."

This last entry shows the natural bent of his mind, though his biographer says "these thoughts were as yet entirely speculative, exercising no apparent influence upon his conduct." Yet his feelings gradually deepened, and in the latter part of the session 1786 we find him escaping from the gaieties of town and sleeping constantly at Wimbledon. "Yet thinking it an unfavourable situation for his servants, a needless increase of his personal expenses, and a cause of some loss of time, he determined to forego in future the luxury of such a villa." And thus his associations with Wimbledon were closed. We have looked into his private life: want of space forbids us to enter on his public career. That noble career has been well described by his sons. The great philanthropist and matured Christian died on the morn-

ing of Monday, July 29th, 1833, aged seventy-three years and eleven months; and on August 5th his mortal remains, attended to their last resting-place by the good and great, were deposited in the north transept of Westminster Abbey, close to the tombs of Pitt, Fox, and Canning.

This house was occupied in later years (about 1819, 1820) by the good William Van Mildert, Bishop of Durham. His ancestors, as the name suggests, were of Dutch extraction. His great-grandfather, Daniel Van Mildert, appears to have been naturalized in England in the reign of William III. The future bishop was educated at Merchant Taylors' School and at Queen's College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. degree in 1787. Ordained deacon in 1788 and priest in 1789, he rose, through a succession of deserved promotions, to the bishopric of Llandaff in March, 1819, and eventually to that of Durham, where he was noted for his great Christian kindness and unbounded liberality. He was so distinguished as a divine amongst his contemporaries, that when he was Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford, his friend Charles Lloyd is reported to have said, "Van Mildert, I believe if I were to talk to you in your sleep, you would mutter divinity in your dreams." \*

In the house now occupied by Mrs. Hudson, herself a descendant of the Mr. Allen from whom Fielding derived his character of Squire Alworthy, lived her brother-in-law, Sir John Richardson,† late Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

"Winning his way," says Archdeacon Churton, "to the distinguished post which he for a short time occupied in his own profession, he was indebted for it, not more to the ability and skill of his pleadings and practice than to the pure integrity of his life. As a judge, his brethren on the bench had the highest value for his decisions; and it was lamented as a public loss when his declining health compelled

\* Archdeacon Churton's *Life of Joshua Watson*, 2nd edit. p. 39.

† Sir John married Harriet, 2nd daughter of Sir Charles G. Hudson, Bart., of Wanlip Hall, co. Leicester.

him to an early retirement from the office. Suffering severely from a spasmodic asthma, he was directed by his medical advisers to reside for two years in Malta,\* from whence he returned, but so as to live like an invalid, in rooms of which the temperature was carefully adjusted by a thermometer in the uncertain months of the year. Thus his close of life was such as to make him, in more senses than one, a chamber counsel; but, those who had recourse to him in those years will not easily forget the gentle wisdom and refined delicacy of Christian friendship with which his advice was always ready. His classical taste and love of poetry were undiminished by the severer pursuits of law and judicature; and his piety found its constant food and refreshment in the pages of Jeremy Taylor. He lived to consign his only daughter to a husband every way worthy of her and of such a father, the present excellent Bishop of New Zealand, who, with his two sons, attended him in his last moments, and closed his dying eyes a few months before his appointment to his field of missionary labour.†

In a house near the Crooked Billet lived for a time John Murray, Esq., the friend of Byron and of Scott, the founder of the *Quarterly Review*, and the father of our esteemed parishioner John Murray, Esq., J.P., of Newstead; whilst hard by, in the cottage next to the Hon. C. Gore's, lived the first editor of the *Quarterly*, William Giffard, the translator of Juvenal, the student who, through obstacles insurmountable to any but a man of vast energy, fought his way to the pinnacle of literary fame.

Gothic House, now the residence of W. B. Eastwood, Esq., was for a time the home of Lady Anne Barnard, the accomplished authoress of "Auld Robin Gray." She was born in 1750, being the eldest child of James, Earl of Balcarres. She married Mr. Barnard, son of the Bishop of Limerick,

\* It was before leaving England for Malta that he resided at Wimbledon, from 1821-23.

† *Life of Joshua Watson*, 2nd edit. p. 25.

and went with him to the Cape of Good Hope when he was colonial secretary under Lord Macartney. She wrote a journal of her residence there. After the death of Mr. Barnard, in 1808, she resided with Lady Margaret Lindsay, till the marriage of the latter to Sir James Burgess, in 1812. From that time forward Lady Anne resided generally in Berkeley Square,\* enjoying the occasional society of her family, and devoting her declining years to the completion of the memoirs, and the collection of the literary relics of her brothers and sisters. It was not till a year or two before her death that Lady Anne publicly acknowledged the authorship of "Auld Robin Gray," in a letter to Sir Walter Scott, dated Berkeley Square, July 8th, 1823.

This house was afterwards the residence of Captain Frederick Marryat, R.N., the distinguished novelist, son of Joseph Marryat, M.P., whom we have spoken of before as the owner of Wimbledon House. Besides his novels, for which he is generally known, he published some works on naval affairs, and a "Diary in America." He died Aug. 2nd, 1848.

The house now occupied by J. S. Forbes, Esq., was once the seat of the well-known John Horne Tooke. John Horne, who afterwards added the name of Tooke, was the son of Mr. Horne, a poulterer in Newport Street, Westminster. He was born June 26th, 1736. His father was successful in business, became rich, and was one of the most active treasurers of the Middlesex Hospital. John was sent at an early age to the Westminster School, where he showed evidence of talent and occasional industry, varied, however, by frequent fits of idleness. Thence he removed to Eton,

\* Lord Lindsay (*Lives of the Lindsays*) does not mention her residence at Wimbledon. I was informed of the fact by a parishioner, who is a connection of the family; and was pleased to find her assertion verified some time afterwards, when, in turning over some old bundles of papers in the vestry, I lighted several times upon the name of Lady Anne Barnard amongst other residents as a subscriber to local charities.

where he manifested that satire against everything which he considered to be an abuse, for which he was afterwards so notorious. In 1754 he entered at St. John's College, Cambridge, taking his degree of B.A. in the usual order. Next we find him acting the part of usher in a school at Blackheath, and nourishing a strong taste for the legal profession, which was overruled by his family, who wished him to enter the Church. He was first ordained deacon to a curacy in Kent, and in 1760 priest, by the Bishop of Salisbury, when he succeeded to the living of Brentford, which had been purchased for him by his father.

In 1763 he travelled on the Continent as tutor to Mr. Elwes, son of the great miser. Clerical preferment now seemed opening out to him, but his thoughts were bent upon a political life, and feelings which had long been smouldering were brought into activity by the imprisonment of John Wilkes. Horne was one of his most active partisans, and when Wilkes was rejected for the City, it was mainly through the strenuous exertions of Horne that he was returned for Middlesex. In 1770 Horne was engaged in disputes with Mr. Onslow.

In 1773 he threw off the clerical garb and abandoned all clerical pursuits. His adoption of the name of Tooke was somewhat curious. A gentleman named Tooke, of Purley, near Godstone, in Surrey, had been engaged in disputes with a Mr. De Grey, on some enclosure questions. Mr. De Grey at length obtained a bill enabling him to enclose certain lands. Tooke looked upon this as an infringement of his rights, and at once applied to Horne as a well-known shrewd adviser. Horne's advice was immediately to write a libel on the Speaker, at the same time volunteering to compose it, as the only means of gaining time, and thereby preventing the completion of the enclosure. The libel was written, and Horne was called to the bar of the House for a severe reprimand; but the object was effected. Time had been gained, and Mr. Tooke won the day. Grateful to his courageous friend, Tooke at once named Horne as his

heir,\* who thenceforth assumed the patronymic by which he is generally known.

In 1786 Horne Tooke published "The Diversions of Purley," so named from the country residence of his friend. In 1790 he unsuccessfully contested the city of Westminster against Mr. Fox and Lord Howe. At the commencement of the French revolution several of its admirers were suspected of plots against our own executive government. Horne Tooke was one of these; he was confined for a time to his own house in Wimbledon, and his papers were seized; he was, however, acquitted of the charge brought against him. He was again defeated for Westminster in 1796; and at last, with that strange inconsistency which we not unfrequently find in strong radical reformers, he took his seat for *Old Sarum* in 1801! He was not, however, allowed to hold his seat; but after some debates, which we have not space to enlarge upon, he was rejected by both houses, because he had been ordained as a priest in the Church of England.

After this, says his biographer,† "Tooke confined himself almost entirely to his house and gardens, and in the peaceful shades of Wimbledon cultivated literature and friendship. There, too, by his attention to rural affairs, he seemed to soothe the approaches and assuage the paroxysms of disease. Life, for the first time, perhaps, since his childhood, now flowed on in one smooth undeviating current, varied only by occasional study and the interchange of good offices with his neighbours and acquaintance.‡ He still, however, retained all his faculties unimpaired; his masculine mind yet

\* Not heir to all his property. Vide Stephen's *Life of J. H. Tooke*, p. 272.

† Dr. Graham's *Memoirs of J. H. Tooke*, p. 94.

‡ His parties were usually given on a Sunday. An old inhabitant has told the author he remembers the long line of carriages which used to skirt that side of the Common nearly every Sunday afternoon; a preparation this, for that grave which, if his own will had been carried out, would not have been more sacred than the grave of a dog.



continued to dictate to all who chose to consult him, and his responses were usually received, like those of the oracles of old, with implicit deference." He died in this house, March, 1812, in his seventy-seventh year. He had prepared a vault for his remains in his garden, but his executors, more wise, and endued, we hope, with more reverence of feeling, conveyed them to the churchyard at Ealing, in Middlesex.

In the house now occupied by the Hon. Charles Gore, on the western side of the Common, lived Lyde Browne, Esq., whose collection of antiques, statuary, &c., was amongst the choicest of his day. He was one of the Directors of the Bank, and occupied a house in London as well as at Wimbledon. In 1787 he sold his Wimbledon collection to the Empress of Russia for £22,000. By the advice of a friend, he requested a house in St. Petersburg to take charge of the money and transmit it to him; £10,000 were sent over to England, but the remaining £12,000 never came into his possession. Before he could obtain it, the house had failed. He had already suffered from an apoplectic fit; and shortly after the news of his great loss arrived, as he was setting out from his house in Foster Lane, Cheapside, for an evening walk, he dropped in a second fit, and expired immediately.

Two catalogues of his Wimbledon collection were published, both of which are in the British Museum; one in Latin, published in 1768; a second in Italian, fuller and more perfect, in 1769.

We cannot enumerate the whole of these works of art. A few, however, seem worthy of notice. There were fifty-seven statues. Amongst them,—

A large colossal statue of Tiberius, found at Athens by Edward Fawcner, the English Ambassador at Constantinople.

The dying Achilles, from the Barberini collection.

Statues of Minerva, Apollo, Cupid sleeping on the skin of a lion, Bacchus, Venus, and others, from the collection of Cardinal Albani.

Antinous, from the Mazzini palace.

Head of Plato, found in Hadrian's villa at Tivoli.

39 vases, found in the Justinian, Alban, Adrian, and other villas.

10 bassi-relievi.

4 ancient candelabra.

3 votive tablets.

39 pillars and pedestals.

34 busts. Rare busts of Pescennius Niger, of Ænobarbus, Faustina Major, Faustina Minor, from the Alban gallery.

5 sarcophagi; one exhibiting fauns and satyrs, found in the mausoleum of Augustus.

42 statues and torsos. Leda, from the Barberini palace. Annæus Verus, from the palace of Marquis Capponi.

Part of the collection, says the Latin catalogue, fell into the hands of the Earl of Egremont; part, including a very beautiful Paris, into the collection of the Marquis of Rockingham; whilst some rare urns, vases, and sarcophagi, became the property of the Earl of Bessborough.\*

In this house afterwards lived Lord Lyndhurst, three times Lord Chancellor of England; from 1827—1830; from 1834—1835; and again, from 1841—1846.

This house was occupied in later years by Robert, 2nd Viscount Melville, son of the distinguished statesman Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville, who resided in the mansion now occupied by John Bowstead, Esq., called Cannizaro House, after a later resident. Dundas held office in the administrations of Lord North, Lord Rockingham, and Lord Shelburne. After the overthrow of the North and Fox coalition, Mr. Dundas became a strenuous supporter of Mr. Pitt, being chairman of the select committee which preceded the introduction of Pitt's India Bill. A warm intimacy sprung up between them, and Pitt was now as constant a visitor at Wimbledon, in the house of Dundas, as he had been a few years before in that of Wilberforce.

\* Most of these have again been dispersed.

Indeed, a room was specially set apart as "Mr. Pitt's room." Great therefore was the grief, when, in 1805, Dundas, by that time Lord Melville, was impeached for the maladministration of public money, more especially as Wilberforce, though from high conscientious grounds, spoke in favour of the motion. His trial, however, in 1806, resulted in his acquittal of every charge. During his reverses he lived in the small cottage opposite Gothic House, which he called Duneira Cottage, after the family property in Scotland. He was soon after restored to the privy council, from which his name had been erased, but he never returned to office. His death, which was very sudden, took place on 27th May, 1811, at Edinburgh, to which he had gone for the purpose of attending the funeral of his old friend Lord-President Blair, who lay dead in the next house.

The Duke of Cannizaro, who was a later occupant of this house, originally Count St. Antonio, was a refugee, who married a rich English heiress, and became immortalized in one of the Ingoldsby Legends.

The house now occupied by G. Murray, Esq. (the Keir), was the residence of William Benson, auditor of the imprests. He died here in 1754. He was the son of Sir William Benson, sheriff of London.\* In the reign of Queen Anne, he published a letter to Sir Jacob Banks upon the miseries of the Swedes since they had submitted to arbitrary power, in which he lamented the progress it was then making in England. It is said that 100,000 copies of this letter were sold; the author was prosecuted by the Attorney-General, but it does not appear that he was punished. In the next reign he became a courtier. Sir Christopher Wren, who had been architect to the Crown for more than fifty years, was displaced to make room for him in the post of Surveyor-General of the Board of Works. Whilst holding this office, he gave in a report to the Lords, that their house and the Painted Chamber adjoining were in immediate danger of

\* Cf. Lysons, i. 404; *Gentleman's Mag.*, 1775.

falling. Before deciding to take the building down, the Lords determined to consult other surveyors, who pronounced it safe. Benson was accordingly removed, to avoid the address which would have been moved against him by the Lords. As surveyor he attended the king in Hanover, when he planned the waterworks at Herrnhausen. Benson was a great patron of literary men; he paid the debts of Elisha Smith, author of the "Cure of Deism;" gave Dobson £100 for translating "Paradise Lost," and erected a monument to Milton in Westminster Abbey. For this he came under the lash of Pope's satire, who, in the 4th book of the "Dunciad," thus describes him:—

"There marched the bard and blockhead, side by side,  
Who rhymed for hire, and patronized for pride,  
Narcissus, praised with all a parson's power,  
Looked a white lily sunk beneath a show'r.  
There moved Montalto with superior air,  
His stretched-out arm displayed a volume fair;  
Courtiers and patriots in two ranks divide,  
Through both he passed, and bowed from side to side;  
But as in graceful act, with awful eye,  
Composed he stood, *bold Benson thrust him by*;  
On two unequal crutches propped, *he came*;  
Milton on this, on that one—Johnston's name.  
The decent knight retired with sober rage,  
Withdrew his hand and closed the pompous page."

The Johnston alluded to was a Scotch physician, Arthur Johnston, who translated the Psalms, many editions of which Benson printed at his own expense, preferring them to Buchanan's. Benson himself was an author. He wrote an essay on Virgil's "Georgics," two of which he translated, as well as some letters on Poetical Translations. But his chief passion for writing found its scope in epitaphs, which again called forth the scorn of Pope:—

"On Poet's tombs see Benson's titles writ!  
Lo! Ambrose Philipps is preferred for wit!"  
*Dunciad*, III. 325.

Near the present site of Heathfield, on the northern boundary of the parish, was the residence of Arthur Tyton, Esq., solicitor of the Customs. He collected very valuable materials for a History of Surrey, in compiling which he spared neither time nor expense. He had an experienced draughtsman always in his service, and, accompanied by him, Mr. Tyton often made a tour in the country for a week or ten days, taking provisions with him. He collected in this way some beautiful sketches of churches and places of note. On Mr. Tyton's death, his MSS., as well as his fortune, came to his nephew, Arthur Blackiston, Esq., who sold the History of Surrey for a trifling sum. It has never been published. Mr. Tyton lies buried in Merton churchyard.

A large house in the grounds of H. L. Holland, Esq., where a more modern residence has been erected, was the country seat of the great Whig minister of George III., the Marquis of Rockingham, the patron of Burke, the political opponent of Pitt. The house stood near the gate which is at the junction of the High Street and Church Street, opposite the back premises of the Dog and Fox inn. Of the minister's life at Wimbledon we have no record. His political career is so fully treated in the pages of Lord Stanhope and others, that we do better, perhaps, to refer our readers to these than to give a mere skeleton ourselves. He died here, July 1st, 1782, being at the time premier, at the head of a coalition ministry. Dying without issue, his estates descended to Lord Fitzwilliam, his sister's son. His house at Wimbledon was occupied the year after his death by the great Charles James Fox, who resided here whilst secretary of state. He, like his predecessor, is so well-known a statesman in modern history, that we again think it better to refer our readers to the historians of the reign of George III.

This house was destroyed, and another built some distance to the east of it, called Belvedere, which for some time was the seat of the Rush family, and afterwards of

J. C. Peache, Esq., to whose son, the Rev. Alfred Peache, it still belongs. H. L. Holland, Esq., Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, is the present occupant.

Cottenham Park, at the western side of the parish, was for some years the residence of the Lord Chancellor Cottenham. He was the 2nd son of Sir William Weller Pepys (1st Bart.), by the eldest daughter of the Right Hon. William Dowdeswell. He was appointed Solicitor-General in February, 1834; Master of the Rolls in September following: he was First Commissioner when the Great Seal was in commission in 1835, and filled the office of Lord Chancellor from 1836 to September, 1841, and from 1846 to 1850. He represented the borough of Malton in Parliament from 1832 to 1836, having previously sat for Higham Ferrers.

At the beginning of this century, this house was the residence of James Meyrick, Esq.; afterwards of George John Lambton, 1st Earl of Durham, who was Lord Privy Seal from 1831 to 1833, Ambassador to Russia from 1835 to 1837, and High Commissioner in Canada in 1838. He died in 1840. After the death of Lord Cottenham in 1850, the property passed through one or two hands, but the house and nearly forty acres around it were eventually purchased by the present Duke of Wellington, who sold it to W. Sim, Esq., by whom the house has been pulled down, and the land parcelled out for building. The trustees of St. George's Hospital have bought about twenty acres, with the intention of erecting a convalescent hospital.

Woodhays, the residence of J. R. Reeves, Esq., was previously occupied by Thomas Tooke, Esq., an eminent Russian merchant and politician, as well as an active parishioner. He was the author of a work "on Prices," &c. &c.

Mount Ararat, a mansion overlooking a wide extent of country, from the Crystal Palace to Guildford and Farnborough, is the seat of Thomas Devas, Esq.

The handsome pile of brick buildings standing promi-

nently on the Ridgeway was built in 1860, as a private school, chiefly in preparation for the army, by S. Teulon, Esq., architect of Ch. Ch., for the present proprietors, the Rev. J. M. Brackenbury and the Rev. C. J. Wynne.

The house near the double gates at Merton, on the southern boundary of Wimbledon parish, now occupied by G. Middleton, Esq., was built by Sir Richard Hotham, Knt., a city merchant. Sir Richard was the founder of the well-known watering-place Bognor, in Sussex, about the year 1790. He had so high an opinion of the gravel dug upon Wimbledon Common, that, at his expense, a large quantity was shipped in barges at Wandsworth to form the roads and paths at Bognor. There are still existing near that place narrow paths between hedges similar to the one called "The Quicks,"\* or the Quicksets, which was near Sir Richard Hotham's grounds at Wimbledon.

He was active in parish affairs whilst a resident in Wimbledon. His name frequently occurs in the vestry books as the originator of schemes for the improvement of the place. To him we are indebted for the formation of the road leading from Merton to Wandsworth, which before was a mere drove, although he met with considerable opposition both from the parishes of Wimbledon and Wandsworth (1773—1776).

A later occupant of the same house was Sir James Allan Park, Knt., one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. He was educated at the Free Grammar-school of Northampton. Called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1784, he distinguished himself in his profession, was appointed a king's counsel in 1799, and in 1817 was raised to the bench. He, like Sir Richard Hotham, found time to interest himself in parochial matters, and was a ready supporter of any scheme which might contribute towards the improvement of his parish. He died much regretted

\* This pathway still exists, leading from the Wimbledon road opposite Waterloo Villas, to Haydon's Lane.

by a large circle of friends.\* He was the author of some works :—" A System of the Law of Marine Insurance," for a long time used as a text-book ; also " The Shipping Laws of the British Empire," edited by Mr. George Atkinson in 1854. He also published some religious treatises ; besides his " Earnest Exhortation to frequent the Reception of the Holy Sacrament," 1801 ; he edited, in his earlier years, a " Memoir of the late William Stevens," who, like himself, had taken a deep interest in the Scottish Episcopal Church.†

James Perry, the well-known editor and proprietor of the *Morning Chronicle*, lived at Wandlebank House, now the property of H. P. Ashby, Esq. The epitaph on Mr. Perry's monument in Wimbledon church ‡ needs not that we should add anything in his praise.

Although Lord Nelson's house was in Merton, yet his grounds—the shady haunts in which he loved to walk—stretched so far into our own parish, that it is but fair we should mention him here. We will not enter upon his public history—that may be read in works of a national character ; we prefer to give a sketch of the great man as he lived at Merton.§ The former occupant of the house was a

\* See inscription on his monument, page 84.

† *Imperial Dict. of Biography*. Cf. Churton's *Life of J. Watson*, 2nd edit. 13—23, 130.

‡ Page 83.

§ My informant, Thomas Saker, the last link which united Wimbledon with Nelson, is now no more. He expired whilst these sheets were preparing for the press, on the afternoon of Tuesday, Nov. 8, 1864, having nearly completed his 85th year. He was carpenter and factotum about Merton Place, and used to speak with an honest pride of the trust that was laid on him to go when and where he liked about the house or grounds. He distinctly remembered Lord Nelson, and often spoke with glistening eye of his genial manners and kind heart. He also remembered the visits of Sir William and Lady Hamilton, before the death of the former, which took place in April, 1803. Lady Hamilton resided constantly at Merton after that. I am afraid that Saker scarcely agreed with the apologists, especially Sir Harris Nicholas, that the intimacy between Nelson and Lady Hamilton was



Mr. Greaves, of whom Nelson purchased the estate. The residence itself was much altered, and the grounds laid out under his own direction. It stood on the site now occupied by Nelson's Fields, being surrounded by a moat, a very small portion of which remains as a pond in the back premises of Mr. Corke, the butcher. The entrance-lodge was near the junction of the Abbey Garden walls with High Street, the spot now occupied by the Nelson Arms.

The house itself was roomy, but not magnificent. Plenty of glass and light seemed to be the predominant taste of one who had spent much of his life in the open air. Glass doors in front and a long passage with glass doors opening into the lawn behind, and even plate-glass reflecting doors to some of the principal rooms, must have thrown an appearance of lightness about the interior. The stables were in the parish of Wimbledon, and now form cottages opposite the Nelson Arms, which are the property of J. L. Bennett, Esq., who retains a letter written by Lord Nelson to his father, in which he agrees to the terms on which the stables were to be rented. The grounds extended into our parish, to the fields opposite the present Waterloo and Somerset villas, and from the present High Street, Merton, to the Quicks was a shrubbery with some fine specimens of yew-trees. On the small mound in the paddock opposite Waterloo Villas, was a rustic seat, where the hero would enjoy the quiet prospect of what was then fresh unbroken country around him; and when fancy dictated, he would take his rod and stroll down to the Wandle, where, undisturbed by passers-by, he might take a good basket of fish, and then, perhaps, turn in for a chat with his intimate friend Mr. Perry, of Wandlebank

of a purely Platonic character. But let us say no more on the one foul blot on Nelson's fair fame. I am in possession of a miniature of Nelson, a wood engraving, said to be a most excellent likeness, given by Lady Hamilton to Thomas Saker, and by him presented to me as a remembrance of many chats together during my parochial visits.

House,\* with whom he maintained a hearty friendship whilst they lived as neighbours. But the summons again to command his fleet came to disturb his quiet repose. "I can see him now," said my old friend Saker, "as when he walked down for the last time from his house to the Lodge, bidding farewell to all around before he joined his fleet." We know the sequel—Trafalgar was won, but Nelson was lost. Over Merton Place, when Nelson left it, we will throw a veil. Not a vestige of it remains, save the few square yards of pond of which we spoke before.

\* I am informed by Saker that the hero gave the editor a substantial proof of his friendship in the shape of a double shaft roller, which cost 100 guineas; that he also stood as godfather to Mr. Perry's daughter.

## CHAPTER XII.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Botany of Wimbledon. Geology. Artesian Wells. Strata cut through in the formation of Lord Spencer's well. River Wandle. Beverley. General Remarks.

## THE BOTANY OF WIMBLEDON.

THE whole number of flowering plants and ferns found in Great Britain, according to the London Catalogue, is 1,566; of which number 984 have been observed in Surrey. Of these, about 600 have been either recorded or noticed as occurring within a distance of three miles from Wimbledon Church; and by a continued and careful search, this number might no doubt be considerably increased.

It was thought undesirable, even had it been practicable, to restrict the list to a district with such arbitrary limits as the parish. This would necessarily give only an imperfect idea of the general character of the vegetation, as the country in the neighbourhood is sufficiently varied to include plants requiring very different conditions of growth. The following list contains all the rarer and more interesting plants:—

## 1.—FLOWERING PLANTS.

*Clematis vitalba* (L.). Merton.

*Anemone apennina* (L.). Wimbledon Park. First noticed for this locality by Mr. Rand, in Ray's Synopsis, ed. 3. 1724.

*Myosurus minimus* (L.). Wimbledon.

*Ranunculus circinatus* (Sibth.). Ditches by the Wandle. (Surrey Flora.)

„ *hirsutus* (Curt.). Between Wimbledon and Kingston. (Surrey Flora.)

„ *parviflorus* (L.). Wandsworth.

- Eranthis hyemalis* (Salisb.). Wimbledon Park.  
*Nymphæa alba* (L.). Wimbledon Common. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Papaver Argemone* (L.). Wimbledon.  
*Corydalis claviculata* (D.C.). British Camp.  
*Teesdalia nudicaulis* (Br.). Wimbledon and Barnes Commons  
*Lepidium campestre* (Br.). Wimbledon.  
*Arabis hirsuta* (Br.). Garden wall of Wimbledon House.  
*Turritis glabra* (L.). Roadside near Cottenham Park.  
*Erysimum cheiranthoides* (L.). Robin Hood.  
*Reseda luteola* (L.). Barnes Common.  
*Drosera rotundifolia* (L.). Wimbledon Common.  
*Moenchia erecta* (Sm.). Wandsworth and Wimbledon Commons.  
(Surrey Flora.)  
*Stellaria uliginosa* (Murr.).  
*Cerastium aquaticum* (L.). Merton.  
*Linum catharticum* (L.). Wimbledon Common. (Fl. Metr.)  
*Radiola Millegrana* (Sm.). Wandsworth Common.  
*Malva moschata* (L.). Wimbledon Park. (H. Gamble.)  
*Hypericum hirsutum* (L.). West Barns.  
*Geranium pyrenaicum* (L.). Wimbledon Churchyard.  
*Euonymus europæus* (L.). Coombe Wood. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Rhamnus catharticus* (L.). Wimbledon Common. (J. Britten.)  
*Genista anglica* (L.). Wimbledon Common.  
*Ononis arvensis* (L.). Wandsworth Common.  
*Trigonella ornithopodioides* (D.C.). Wandsworth Common. (Surrey  
Flora.)  
*Trifolium subterraneum* (L.).  
*Ornithopus perpusillus* (L.).  
*Orobus tuberosus* (L.).  
*Prunus avium* (L.). Wimbledon Park.  
*Rubus suberectus* (And.). Wimbledon Common.  
*Rosa spinosissima* (L.). Wimbledon Common.  
,, *hibernica* (Sm.). Roadside at Coombe Wood. (The Natu-  
ralist, 1864, p. 23.)  
,, *villosa* (L.). Near Coombe Wood. (New Bot. Guide.)  
,, *rubiginosa* (L.). Wimbledon Common. (J. Britten.)  
*Alchemilla arvensis* (Sm.).  
*Pyrus communis* (L.). Wimbledon Park. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Epilobium roseum* (Schreb.).  
*Circea lutetiana* (L.).  
*Callitriche platycarpa* (Kütz.). Wimbledon Common.

- Sedum Telephium* (L.). Near Cottenham Park.  
*Saxifraga granulata* (L.). Wimbledon Park.  
*Conium maculatum* (L.). Barnes. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Helosciadium inundatum* (Koch). Wimbledon Common.  
*Oenanthe fistulosa* (L.). Roehampton Common.  
*Sison amomum* (L.). Wimbledon.  
*Silaua pratensis* (Besser). Wimbledon Common.  
*Valeriana dioica* (L.). Coombe.  
*Thrinia hirta* (Roth.). Wimbledon Common.  
*Lactuca virosa* (L.). Kingston Bottom. (Burnett.)  
*Hieracium umbellatum* (L.). Wandsworth and Barnes Commons.  
*Filago minima* (Pers.).  
*Erigeron acris* (L.). Wandsworth and Barnes Commons. (Surrey Flora.)  
     " *canadensis* (L.). Wandsworth.  
*Jasione montana* (L.).  
*Vaccinium Myrtillus* (L.). Coombe.  
*Villarsia nymphaeoides* (Vent.). Ponds, Wimbledon Common.  
*Menyanthes trifoliata* (L.). Wimbledon Common.  
*Veronica scutellata* (L.).  
*Bartsia Odontites* (Huds.). Wimbledon.  
*Linaria cymbalaria* (Mill.).  
     " *elatine* (Desf.). Wimbledon.  
*Orobancha major* (L.). Wimbledon Common. (Surrey Flora.)  
     " *minor* (Sutt.). Wandsworth Common.  
*Verbena officinalis* (L.). Wimbledon.  
*Mentha Pulegium* (L.). Putney. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Scutellaria minor* (L.). Wimbledon Common.  
*Myosotis repens* (Don.). Wimbledon Common.  
     " *collina* (Hoffm.). Coombe Warren. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Hottonia palustris* (L.). Pond in grounds of Wimbledon House.  
*Lysimachia vulgaris* (L.). Wimbledon Common.  
     " *nemorum* (L.). Wimbledon Common.  
*Chenopodium olidum* (Curt.). Putney. (Surrey Flora.)  
     " *polyspermum* (L.). Near Coombe Wood. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Rumex pulcher* (L.). Putney. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Mercurialis annua* (L.). Wandsworth. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Parietaria officinalis* (L.). Wimbledon Churchyard.  
*Orchis Morio* (L.). Wimbledon Common. (Surrey Flora.)  
     " *incarnata* (L.). Wimbledon Common.

- Allium vineale* (L.). Wandsworth Common. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Ornithogalum nutans* (L.). Wimbledon Park.  
*Stratiotes aloides* (L.). Pond on Wandsworth Common, originally  
 planted by Mr. Anderson, Curator of the Chelsea  
 Botanic Gardens.  
*Actinocarpus Damasonium* (Br.). Wandsworth Common. (Surrey  
 Flora.)  
*Potamogeton pectinatus* (L.). In the Wandle at Merton. (Surrey  
 Flora.)  
 „ *oblongus*. Wimbledon Common.  
*Lemna polyrrhiza* (L.). Barnes. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Acorus Calamus* (L.). Barnes Common, and water-side, Wim-  
 bledon House.  
*Narthecium ossifragum* (Huds.). Wimbledon Common. (Surrey  
 Flora.)  
*Scirpus setaceus* (L.). Wimbledon Common. (Surrey Flora.)  
 „ *multicaulis* (Sm.). Wimbledon Common.  
*Carex pulicaris* (L.). Wimbledon Common. (Surrey Flora.)  
 „ *muricata* (L.). Wandsworth.  
 „ *flava* (L.). Wimbledon Common.  
 „ *sylvatica* (Huds.). Plantations, Wimbledon House.  
*Triodia decumbens* (Beauv.). Wandsworth Common. (Surrey Flora.)  
*Glyceria plicata* (Fries). Wimbledon Common.  
*Bromus giganteus* (L.). Wimbledon Park.  
*Brachypodium sylvaticum* (Beauv.). Merton.

## 2.—FLOWERLESS PLANTS.

- Polypodium vulgare* (L.). British Camp, and elsewhere.  
*Lastrea thelypteris* (Presl.). Wimbledon Common.  
 „ *oreopteris* (Presl.) Wimbledon Common. Now destroyed.  
 „ *Filix-mas* (Presl.).  
 „ *spinulosa* (Presl.). Wimbledon Common.  
 „ *dilatata* (Presl.). Wimbledon Common.  
*Athyrium Filix-femina* (Roth). British Camp.  
*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* (L.). Wimbledon.  
 „ *Ruta-muraria* (L.).  
*Scolopendrium vulgare* (Sym.). Ham.  
*Osmunda regalis* (L.). Wimbledon Common. Now destroyed.  
*Ophioglossum vulgatum* (L.). Near Coombe Wood, and elsewhere.  
*Lycopodium inundatum* (L.). Wimbledon Common.

- Equisetum Telmateia (Ehrh.). Wandsworth Common.  
 „ limosum (L.). Wimbledon Common.  
 Claytonia perfoliata (Don.), a North American plant, is well  
 established near the windmill, Wimbledon Common.  
 W. T. D.  
 E. B. P.

#### GEOLOGY OF WIMBLEDON.

It is obvious that, in a work like the present, space permits us only to give a few general remarks on the geology of our parish.

The formation of our soil is *London tertiary*, consisting, that is, of London clay, with accumulations here and there of ancient drift, formed of loam, gravel, and sand, which are designated *post-tertiary detritus*, or diluvium.

Take first the upper layer of gravel which is found on the Common and in certain portions of the Wandle valley. This gravel is for the most part formed of flints of a sub-angular shape, from the chalk (but by what means separated from the chalk by so wide an interval we leave it to others to decide\*), and of black flint pebbles of a perfectly rounded form, answering to those found in the bright-coloured clays and light-coloured sands of the "lower London tertiaries." "Yet although flints form by far the larger proportion of the gravel, there are a few other substances showing a different origin. First there are some sub-angular flattish fragments of a hard, light-coloured, porous stone, and of a brown, horny-looking flint. Now we have no rocks or minerals like these, either in the tertiary strata around London or in the chalk; but beyond the chalk hills, and rising up from beneath them, are a series of strata known as the Upper and Lower Greensands, some of the lower beds of which latter may be

\* The reader is referred to three lectures on the geology of Clapham and the neighbourhood of London, entitled, *The Ground beneath us*, by Joseph Prestwich, F.R.S., F.G.S. Also to the "Geological Survey," by G. Mantell, F.R.S., in vol. I. of Brayley's *History of Surrey*.

well seen in the cutting where the Brighton and Dover railways diverge at Redhill. This formation, which extends thence to Dorking and Farnham, contains some beds of rock (Ragstone) and of a sort of flint called Chert; and it is worn fragments of these that we here recognize in the gravel.

"This evidence is thus corroborative, and shows that this gravel consists essentially of the *débris* of rocks, transported northward probably from the hills of Surrey and Sussex, and over distances of not less than from six to twenty miles.

"There is, however, a certain amount of conflicting evidence, for we also find a few large pebbles of white quartz, others of a hard, compact, reddish sandstone, of some porphyritic and slate rocks, unlike anything either in the tertiary or chalk formations, or in the lower greensand. These pebbles are formed of the silurian and slate rocks of Wales and the border counties; but although derived originally from those formations, they may be more directly referred to the conglomerates of the new red sandstone of Worcestershire and Warwickshire, in which these older pebbles were first imbedded. But even these strata are not found within a distance of eighty to a hundred miles from London. This indicates a still more remarkable extent of transport than we have hitherto noticed, and one from a different direction. This curious point yet remains an open and difficult geological question."\*

The organic remains which have been found in this gravel as it exists in the various neighbouring localities—*e.g.*, Wimbledon, Wandsworth, Clapham, and Petteridge Commons—consist of bones and teeth of the elephant, the two-horned rhinoceros, a large animal of the feline tribe related either to the lion or the tiger, a large hippopotamus, a great bear, a formidable hyæna, the red-deer, the reindeer, the wolf, an ox, and a horse. Several species of these animals, and almost all the shells that have been found, still exist; thus showing that the gravel is, geologically speaking, of

\* Prestwich, p. 12.



recent date. Geologists place it in the period termed post-pliocene—i.e., class it amongst the latest geological changes which have taken place on the globe.

But although so comparatively recent, it is supposed that this gravel was spread over the soil before the land had quite assumed its present configuration. Examine the surface between Wimbledon and Clapham commons, we find that the gravel of the Common ceases when we begin to descend the slope of Wimbledon Hill, and is succeeded by clay, which continues through the Wandle Valley and up the slope of the hill towards Wandsworth Common, on the top of which we meet with the same bed of gravel. Descending again from Wandsworth Common, we lose the gravel and find the clay, till we mount once more upon Clapham Common, where the gravel reappears. But, in addition to this, there is another bed of gravel at the bottom of the Wandle valley, which is considered to be of a different age to that on the Commons;\* for the remarks just made show that the "higher-level gravel is cut off abruptly on the slopes of each valley, in a way that could not be if this gravel had been spread over the district after the hills and valleys had assumed their present form. Had it been so, the great bulk of the gravel would necessarily have settled in the valleys, and would thence have extended in decreasing thickness up the slopes of the hills, and been scattered more sparingly on the tops; whereas the great mass of the gravel has lodged on those higher and flat levels, leaving the valleys comparatively bare. Further, as the gravels on Clapham, Wandsworth, and Wimbledon Commons are alike in composition and on the same plane, it follows that they probably had the same origin, and were once continuous; and it must have been after the gravel had been spread that the valleys of Battersea Brook and the Wandle were excavated, and formed as we now see them. Consequently these valleys and the gravel in them are of more recent date than the gravel on the

\* Prestwich, 31.

Commons : the difference of level between the two amounts to as much as sixty and one hundred and fifty feet. How the excavation of these valleys was accomplished involves an important and open geological problem. Various are the theories which have been suggested, but it will suffice for our purpose to establish the simple fact, which is of much interest, that it was at a very recent geological period that the surface of the land in the neighbourhood of London received its final configuration and outline."

Immediately beneath the gravel, and in the greater portion of our parish, appearing on the surface, as already shown, is the London clay, a peculiar argillaceous formation, extending west and east from Newbury to Harwich, and north and south from Hertford to Croydon. Between the gravel and the London clay, however, there is a great period in order of time, filled up by the deposits of sand, as at Bagshot, Esher, and Chobham, the limestones of the north side of the Isle of Wight, and the crag of the eastern counties, all of which are later than the London clay, but older than the gravel. Indeed, it is concluded that at one period the Bagshot sands extended over the London clay in our neighbourhood; nay, more, that the clay itself has diminished from its original average of from 400 or 500 feet to 160 or 220 feet.

The chief organic remains found in this formation are bones and teeth of extinct mammalia; bones of birds, serpents, crocodiles; fishes, crustacea, nautili, and other marine shells; wood, plants, and seed-vessels. Not the least curious amongst these is the well-known "ship-worm," really a boring bivalve shell-fish, whose ravages in ship timbers are so much dreaded. It was long supposed that this creature was introduced only two centuries since, by vessels returning from the southern seas, whereas it is discovered in swarms in the old London clay.

Passing through the London clay, we should come to what is called the Lower London Tertiaries before entering on the chalk, which marks a different formation altogether.

Of this series we find what is called the *Basement bed*, the *Woolwich* and *Reading series*, neither of which we have space to describe, and the *Thanet sands*, to which we have penetrated, because they introduce us to the subject of *Artesian wells*, which form a matter of great interest to our parishioners, especially to those living in the Wandle valley and the district called New Wimbledon. The way in which such wells act is this:—"The Thanet sands are separated from the surface by a mass of London clay of variable thickness. As this clay is impervious, none of the rain-water which falls on its surface or the gravel above can pass downwards, nor can any water in the beds beneath rise upwards through it. But the Thanet sands themselves being very permeable, whenever they rise to the top of the ground, as at Croydon and Epsom to the south of London, or at Stortford and Broxbourne to the north, they form a surface into which the rain which falls on them, together with that which drains from off the adjacent clay-lands, can penetrate easily. Now as these sands dip beneath the London clay, and pass underground all the way from the above-named places to London, the rain-water, which sinks into them at their outcrop, at these places percolates without interruption throughout all their subterranean course. And as the chalk beneath and the clays above the sands confine the water like two impervious plates, the successive additions of rain-water at the outcrop of the sands will, in process of time, gradually fill up the underground portion of this water-bearing stratum. Then any further addition of rain-water would only cause an overflow, as springs, at the edge of the sand-bed, wherever there were depressions in it. This being the normal state of things, if an artificial opening were made through the London clay down to the sand-beds, the water in them would naturally tend to rise through any such opening to that level at which it stands at the outcrop of these sands, which, at the above-named places, varies from about sixty to one hundred feet above the Thames, that rise being, however, interfered with more or less by resistance

dependent on the texture of the sand, &c. It was found when artesian wells, as such artificial openings or borings are called, were first made in London, through the impervious clay down to the permeable sands, that the water from the Thanet sands rose to a height of twenty to thirty feet above the level of the Thames. Now, however, these wells are so numerous, that the drain on the water-bearing strata in the London area is in excess of the rate at which they are replenished, and consequently the water-level, instead of rising above ground, as formerly, now stands at from forty to fifty feet below the surface. Still, at a short distance from London, many of these wells continue nearly as at first. One of the best is at the copper-mills at Garrett, in the parish of Wimbledon. The water there rises from a depth of one hundred and forty-three feet, and overflows in a constant and steady stream capable of attaining a height of about twenty feet above the ground. There are several other overflowing artesian wells in Wimbledon;\* also at Wandsworth, Tooting, and Mitcham; as likewise at Clapton, Tottenham, and Waltham Abbey, on the north of London. The water of these deep-spring wells is very limpid and soft, but it nevertheless holds in solution a large proportion of solid ingredients—not less than forty to sixty grains to the gallon, whereas our harder river-waters usually contain from sixteen to twenty-four grains only.”†

For a more detailed account of the several deposits in the soil beneath us we turn now to the description given of the different strata passed through in the formation of a well at Wimbledon-Park House.

When the present house was fitted up, Lord Spencer was

\* Eight are known to the writer in the portion south of the railway, called New Wimbledon. There may possibly be others with which he is unacquainted.

† Prestwich, p. 68. A large proportion of these wells are now carried down to the chalk, a better supply of water being obtained from fissures in that formation.

desirous of having a well near it, and in 1798 he caused one to be sunk ; but though there was a large piece of water in the park, he was obliged to dig to a depth of five hundred and sixty-three feet before water could be found. It is said to have been fifteen months in hand ; but a plentiful supply of water was at length obtained. The following is an account of the strata through which the well was sunk :—" Cultivated soil and clay of a bright nut-brown, 3 feet; leaden-coloured, indurated, flaky clay, 20; foxy, or reddish-coloured sand, and the leaden-coloured clay more indurated or slaty, alternately, in thicknesses of three or four feet, for about 80; leaden-coloured strong loam, but not slaty, alternately with a dark-coloured pipey matter, supposed to be pyrites, syringoites, or pipe-stone, in thicknesses of about three feet, for about 60; the leaden-coloured clay or loam continued, but interspersed with stony nodules, which contained a brownish spar or crystal, capable of taking a bright polish, for about 40; a hard rock, containing cavities, or bladder-holes, full of water, which the well-diggers called water-stone, about eight inches in thickness, half a foot; the leaden-coloured clay continued; but in this thickness it contained much sulphur, so much so as to emit a blue smoke and powerful smell when dropped into a hot fire-shovel. This stratum contains a considerable quantity of a mineral which has the appearance of coal-ashes, and in which are some bright small spangles. It smells of sulphur, has a sharp styptic taste, and is supposed to be zinc, formed by the union of the water and the sulphur with vitriolic acid. This stratum also had many lumps of stone and shells of brown crystal in it, which measured six or eight inches in diameter; and the whole of this stratum emitted an air so noxious as to prevent the men working without the aid of pipes to disperse it, and supply them with air from the atmosphere. Below this was some rotten wood, 236; a hard rock, about six inches thick. Under this rock the air was as pure as it had been above the sulphureous strata, half a foot; a sandy loam of a foxy colour, 110; a stratum of marine

shells, in thickness about 3; a lightish-coloured and rather clean sand, 7; a hard rock of marine shells, which seemed mostly to be of the cockle kind, 3. Total, 563 feet.

"On perforating this rock, the water rose in the well with great force, to the height of 449 feet, or to within 114 of the surface. The water brought up so much sand as nearly to fill the lowest two hundred feet of the well with it, of so clean a quality as to permit the water to rise freely through it, which filters or cleanses it in the most effectual manner.

"In September, 1804, the well was reported to contain of sand, 184 feet; of water, 224. This shows the water was lower by forty-one feet than it was five years before."\*

This well has not been used for several years.

The river which forms in some parts the eastern boundary of our parish is called the Wandle, originally Vandal.† It takes its rise in Croydon. "Numerous fine springs of water, issuing from the eminence on which the town stands, by their conflux near the site of the old palace of the Archbishop of Canterbury, form the chief or longest branch of this river. It takes its course westward, by Waddon and Beddington, to Carshalton, where its stream is augmented by several springs which rise in that parish, and form an expanse of water of considerable size, in the centre of the village. It then runs northward, by Mitcham, Merton, and Wimbledon, where it receives a branch from the vicinity of Addiscombe; it then passes on to Wandsworth, emptying itself into the Thames. The whole length of this river, from Croydon to Wandsworth, is very little more than ten miles, yet it is said to turn 'nearly forty mills of different kinds.'‡ In consequence of this, the continued current and agitation of its waters are so considerable, that 'it is seldom known to be frozen, even in the severest winter.'§

\* Manning, III. 272.

† Page 1.

‡ Stevenson, *Agriculture of Surrey*, p. 68.

§ Garrow, *Hist. of Croydon*, p. 3. Brayley and Britton's *Hist. of Surrey*, I. 185.

The name of this river invites our inquiry. As a general rule, perhaps, a place takes its name from the river, not the river from the place. But this is not universal; *e.g.*, Witham = With-*ham*, and Colne = Colonia. Thus we are not obliged to derive Wandsworth from the name of the river which empties itself into the Thames at that place, but may even suppose that the name of the river was of later date than that of the town. Learned etymologists have considered that in compounds of which the first element has the *s* of the possessive case, we are generally given the names of men—*i.e.* the owners of the place. Wandle-*s*-worth therefore would be the *worth* (ort), *place* of Wandil or Wendil. Again, when the name of a place, town, or village, is also the name of a river, the former, by becoming compound, may lose a syllable, the latter retaining it. Hence,

Chelmer . . . . Chelm-s-ford  
Wandle . . . . Wand-s-worth.

*Wendil* therefore was probably the name of the lord of the soil, as Clapa was owner of Clapa-ham (heim), and Wibba of Wibba-n-dune; and inasmuch as the name resembles a branch of the Slavonic race, may not the owner have been a *Wend* (Vandal)? Granted that this name was not given by themselves to the tribes which bore it, but by their German neighbours, and therefore that the name *Wend* would not have been found in England till the Saxon was here to give it, yet it is now generally considered that there were large inroads of Saxons long before the time of Hengist and Horsa (449 A.D.); some say before the time of Carausius (287 A.D.),\* and some give a date much earlier even than that,† *Wendil*, therefore, may have been a descendant of one of those Vandal mercenaries sent over by the Emperor Probus to check the recovery of British power,‡ or at any rate of

\* Taylor's *Words and Places*, 147.

† Thrupp, *Anglo-Saxon Home*, p. 4.

‡ *Vid.* Zosim. *Hist. lib.* i. c. 68.

some fresh band of immigrants or recognized settlers amongst Anglo-Saxons, and bearing the tribal name which had been assigned by earlier Germans, just as men around us now carry as a patronymic the name of Scot.

It is, nevertheless, but fair that we should give the other theory, which would refer the name to the river, rather than to an original owner. The English word *water* is found to be in Danish, *Vaud*; Swedish, *Vatn*; Lithuanic, *Wandē*; Old Prussian, *Unds*; Lettish, *Uhdens*. An affix *-el* (query *Wandelui*) is common in the Lithuanic. The Wandle, therefore, like the Celtic word Afon, or Avon, might simply mean "The River," "The Water;" but, even in this case, language refers us to a well-nigh similar origin, the Lithuanic, a branch, like the Slavonic Wend, of the old Sarmatian stock.\* Assert, then, that the name is only "The Water," and we are still bound to account by some settlement, such as we have contended for above, for the introduction of a name differing from Celt or Saxon in the midst of a Celtic and Saxon population.

The Beverley,† which forms the western boundary of the parish of Wimbleton, separating it from Kingston, takes its rise at Sutton, and after flowing near Cheam Common, Lower Morden, Wimbleton, and Richmond Park, empties itself into the Thames at Barnes. The derivation of this name throws some light upon the early natural history of our parish. When the unsparing hand of the builder shall have fringed its banks with suburban semi-detached villas, their inhabitants will still be able to recognize in the name of the little stream which flows through their neatly-trimmed gardens, the original "beavers' haunt." This is the derivation which has been assigned to Beverley in Yorkshire, and we find a *Beverstone* in Gloucestershire, a *Bevercotes* in Nottinghamshire. "The valley in North Wales which stretches northwards from the Glyders, scored with glacial striæ and

\* Latham's *Descrip. Ethnology*, vol. II. chaps. I. II.

† It is by some called the Bavelly,—a mere corruption.



dotted with moraines, bears the name of *Nant Francon*, or "the beavers' dale;" and across this valley stretches Sarn Yr Afrange, or "the beavers' dam." The magnificent pool, well known both to the artist and to the angler, which lies just below the junction of the Lledr and Conway, is called Llyn Yr Afrange, "the beavers' pool."\* As a proof of the former existence of the beaver in our island, we find an Act of David I. of Scotland, in which beaver-skins are mentioned as subject to custom duties amongst Scottish imports, along with the fox, weasel, martin, wild cat, and ferret. Nor must we forget that the inhabitants of Surrey at the time of Cæsar's landing were the Bibroci,† who "no doubt called themselves 'the Beavers,' in the same way that North American tribes take their names from the snakes, the foxes, or the crows."‡

Speaking generally of our parish, with regard to its physical features, we should describe it as a high tableland, sloping gently towards the Wandle valley on the east, to the Merton valley on the south, to the Beverley valley on the west, and meeting the Putney boundary on the table towards the north. Now this description, coupled with the name Putney, opens at once a new suggestion. For what does the termination of that word show us? Undoubtedly, that at one time water must have surrounded it. It is not difficult to see, from the names of the towns and villages along its banks, that in early times the flow of the Thames must have been very different from what it is now. The Anglo-Saxon *ea* or *ey* (an island), entering into the composition of so many of these places, shows us that the water did not then flow in its present deep channel, but spread itself over a broad lagoon, dotted

\* *Words and Places*, by the Rev. Isaac Taylor, p. 390.

† Page 5.

‡ Wilson's *Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*, p. 193; Taylor's *Words and Places*, 391.

with marshy islands.\* Bermondsey, Putney,† Chertsey, Moulsey, Iffley, Osney, Whitney, Battersea (*i.e.*, St. Peter's-ey), and Eton or Eaton, were all islands in that lagoon. Now, if Putney was an island, the question arises, what were its watery boundaries? Did it not include Wimbledon as well? Surely it must; and a large part of Wandsworth also. Three of its boundaries already remain. On the north we have the Thames; the Wandle and the Beverley channels, though much contracted, still retain their ever-flowing streams on the east and west. But what shall we say for the south? Here the stream is lost, and the island is incomplete. True, the stream is lost, but now the value of etymology becomes apparent. For how else shall we account for the name of *Merton*, the *ton* that is, or *homestead*, gradually growing, perhaps, into a village upon the *mere* or inland marshy lake, unless we suppose that here was the fourth side of the water boundary, which is necessary to make the isle complete?‡

But how different are the features of the country now. The bittern and the heron and the beaver have passed away, and in their haunts are now continually heard the ring of the mason's trowel, or the din of the coppersmith's hammer; the desolate island is fast becoming the overcrowded suburb of the greatest city on the earth.

\* Is not this a fresh argument for our assertion, page 7, *paludibus munitum*?

† In Domesday, Putelei, now Putney. The name given to it between these two, Pottenheth, or Puttenheth, may point to another and a later characteristic.

‡ Do we not gain additional strength for the argument here brought forward by the derivation of *Mortlake*, given page 18, *viz.*, *Mortuus lacus*, the dead lake, being a village built on ground reclaimed from the sluggish waters of the lagoon?

## CHAPTER XIII.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Factories. Old Coaches. Railways. Duelling on the Common. Highway Robberies. Windmill. Enclosure. Boundaries. Volunteers of 1797. Reviews. Rifles (11th Surrey). Rifle Association. Miscellaneous Information. Population. Acreage.

THE Survey of 1649 mentions an iron-plate mill, which I am inclined to think occupied nearly the site of the present copper-mill. There are two manufactories in the parish, on the banks of the Wandle, near Garrett—one a calico-printing factory, occupied at present by Messrs. Leves and Wagland, at the beginning of the century by Mr. Coleman. Also a copper-mill not far off, belonging to Messrs. Pontifex. On the site of the premises now used as a flour-mill by Mr. Child, and originally by Mr. Perry, was formerly Messrs. Walls' manufactory of japan-ware. I am also informed that when Mr. Perry first took the mills, it was for the purpose of making felt cloth.

Wimbledon itself has never been the high-road for stage-coaches. It stands in an angle between the high road to Portsmouth and that to Arundel. Before the opening of the South-Western Railway, a coach ran to London and back daily over Putney bridge. For a few years also, another ran from Wimbledon to the City through Merton, the inside fare being as high as 3s. 6d., the outside 2s. But in the lower part of the parish, along the road which separates Wimbledon from Merton, we find that a great number daily passed. At the beginning of this century, ran the Chichester coach through Guildford, passing this place. Another from Portsmouth,

discontinued after the peace of 1814. There was the Brighton "Clarence," the Bognor "Comet," through Dorking, the proprietor of which, Mr. Walker, had been a gentleman of considerable landed property, and high sheriff. From Worthing two or three daily in the summer months; fewer in the winter. From Dorking two. The last which ran on this road was "Kirby's" Guildford coach, discontinued in 1846.

The main line of the South-Western Railway was opened to Wimbledon and beyond it in May, 1838. Including goods trains, about 130 pass our station every day.

The Wimbledon and Croydon line was opened October 22nd, 1855.

A short time probably will see the railway traffic from Wimbledon very considerably increased.

Wimbledon Common has been the scene of many an unfortunate duel, a mode of deciding quarrels once considered worthy of Christian gentlemen, now we trust for ever passed away, whilst the bravery and honour which they were supposed to indicate, remain pure and unsullied in our countrymen as ever. Amongst others, we find a meeting between H.R.H. the Duke of York and Lieutenant-colonel Lennox, in May, 1789. The duke received the colonel's fire, the ball grazed his hair, but he did not fire in return.

On Sunday, May 27th, 1798, Mr. Pitt met Mr. Tierney on Putney Heath, the latter having sent a challenge to the minister in consequence of some angry words in the House of Commons. Mr. Pitt was attended by Mr. Dudley Ryder, afterwards Lord Harrowby, and Mr. Tierney by Mr. George Walpole. Standing at twelve paces, each fired at the same moment, but without effect. The second fire was with the same result, when the seconds interfered, and declared that sufficient satisfaction had been given.\*

Again in May, 1807, a duel was fought here between Sir

\* Stanhope's *Life of Pitt*, vol. III. 131.

tried and convicted for feloniously shooting at one Burnaby Turner, he was executed on the 3rd of August, 1795.\*

A windmill was built on Wimbledon Common, amongst the first in the neighbourhood of London. This kind of mill was first invented in the dry country of Asia Minor, and was used in Normandy as early as the year 1105.† Some, indeed, have assigned its introduction into France to a much earlier date.‡ Aubrey has told us of one which had existed at Wimbledon before his time, but was afterwards removed to the Thames near Wandsworth. I am informed that a mill has existed on the present site for about eighty years.

There were originally two "common gates" in Wimbledon. The cottage belonging to one of these still remains, opposite the grounds of J. R. Reeves, Esq., of Woodhays; the other, which of late years has been used as a storehouse for arms, has been recently pulled down to widen the road. It stood on the road leading from Church Street to the Ridgeway.§

The parish boundaries on the Common are marked by a line of posts. The actual division between Wimbledon and Putney was for some years a subject of fierce dispute, but

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\* It is fair to say that the honour (if honour it be) of having supplied the gallows on which this notorious robber died, has been claimed for Kennington, and also Finchley Common, as well as Wimbledon. It seems scarcely likely that he should have been removed from the scene of his death, to hang in chains upon another gallows, and there can be little doubt that it was at the north-west corner of the Common, not far from the Bald-faced Stag, that he for a long time remained in chains. Within a few years some chains were disinterred by a gravel-digger working near the supposed site of the gallows.

† Gibbon, *Hist.* chap. LXI. note.

‡ *Encycl. Londinen.*

§ Whilst these sheets are passing through the press, considerable discussion is going on in Wimbledon and the neighbourhood in consequence of a proposal made by Lord Spencer to enclose the Common, and form it into a park. This is not the place to continue the controversy, though, whatever may be thought of the project, the offer of his lordship is undoubtedly made from most liberal motives.

was at length settled by reference to the Tithe Commissioners in 1841.

The spring pond on the Common, called "the Robin Hood," or sometimes 'the Roman well,' was enclosed with brick in 1829.

Wimbledon has never been deficient in sending its quota of men and money when the country seemed in danger, and volunteers were needed to fight "pro aris et focis." In 1797 the Vestry took into consideration "the formation of an association towards the defence of the country." A large number of the parishioners attended this meeting, and amongst them we find the well-known John Horne Tooke, *Esq.*,\* as he was then called, *The Reverend* having been shamelessly discarded by him several years before. Two corps (one of horse and one of foot) were then formed. The leading cavalry volunteers were Earl Spencer, Right Hon. Henry Dundas, James Meyrick, *Esq.*, Francis Fowke, *Esq.*, &c. &c. The chairman of the association was the Rev. Septimus Hodson, who was succeeded by Benjamin Patterson, *Esq.* The leading infantry volunteers were W. Rush, *Esq.*, Thomas Eden, *Esq.*, Gerard de Visme, *Esq.*, &c. &c.

Benjamin Patterson, *Esq.*, was lieutenant, and John Thoyts, *Esq.*, cornet. The association was maintained for some years with great spirit, a spirit which the ladies of Wimbledon seem thoroughly to have shared, as we find them opening a ladies' subscription for "furnishing flannel waistcoats to the Infantry Wimbledon Volunteers, the waistcoats to be made by the lady subscribers; the highest subscription to be 10s. 6d., the lowest 2s. 6d.†

The rifle volunteer corps, the 11th Surrey, enrolled February 10, 1860, furnished for the most part by volunteers from Wimbledon and Merton, well keeps up the

\* Page 160.

† Papers in Vestry. Specimens of different sorts of flannel still remain amongst these papers, wrapped in the letter of the London tradesman who supplied the material.

honourable position which Wimbledon had obtained. An armoury and drill-shed is now proposed, and a school of arms is formed in connection with the corps.

Even before the meetings of the Great National Association, which has made Wimbledon Common famous all over the world, it was used for reviews on special occasions. Amongst others we may mention a review of the different volunteer corps of Surrey on July 4th, 1799, by his Majesty George III. The line consisted of twelve cavalry corps and twenty-four of infantry ; the effective strength of the whole being 2,300.\*

Wimbledon Common was inaugurated as a rifle-ground for the National Association on Monday, July 2nd, 1860. We quote the words of the *Illustrated London News* :—  
“ Her Majesty reached the ground shortly before four o'clock. Her Majesty was received on alighting by the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, M.P., Earl Spencer, Lord Elcho, the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., and Captain E. St. John Mildmay, by whom the illustrious party were conducted through the royal marquee to the dais overlooking the practice-ground.

“ The formal business of the day commenced with the presentation of an address from the members of the Association to Her Majesty, which was read by the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, M.P., Secretary for War.”

An address to the Prince Consort was also read, and after gracious replies from both the Queen and her royal husband, “ Her Majesty and the royal party were conducted from the reception-marquee along a raised platform, covered with crimson cloth, to the royal shooting-tent, where Mr. Whitworth was presented to the Queen, and had the honour of explaining the mode in which Her Majesty was to fire the first shot from one of his own rifles. A piece of scarlet cord attached to the trigger was handed to the Queen, who gently pulled it, and the royal rifle-shot was

\* *Annual Register*, 1799. *Chronic.* p. 24.

fired. In an instant the red and white flag was shown by the marker, and 'three points were scored to the Queen of England.' Loud cheering followed, as her Majesty declared the prize meeting opened, and a salute of twenty-one guns announced the fact to thousands who did not hear the few words spoken by her Majesty." Thus commenced the national meeting which has continued annually ever since.

The trees round the Green, or the part of the Common near the village, have been planted about 130 years.

From old maps we may conclude that more houses were originally near the church than are found there at present.

In the early part of the last century there were annual races upon Wimbledon Common, which had then a King's plate.\*

The parish clock originally belonged to Mr. Lancaster. He transferred it to the parish in 1829. It was then resolved that it should remain in the same position, and that Mr. Casswell, to whom the premises had been previously sold by Mr. Lancaster, should be paid "ten pounds a year for the occupancy and for winding up the clock, and keeping the clock and turret in repair. To be defrayed from the church-rate."†

## COMPARATIVE STATE OF POPULATION.

			Average of Baptisms.		Average of Burials.
1580—1589	...	...	4	...	—
1594—1603	...	...	—	...	16
1680—1689	...	...	16	...	14
1729—1738	...	...	27	...	27
1780—1789	...	...	36	...	43
1790—1799	...	...	47½	...	53½
1800—1808	...	...	45	...	62½
1831—1837	...	...	64½	...	43½
1857—1863	...	...	105½	...	56½

In 1863 there were 132 Baptisms and 63 Burials.

In 1864    "    169           "    82    "

\* *Read's Weekly Journal*, Aug. 30 to Sept. 6, 1718.

† *Vestry Papers*.



The population of this parish appears to have increased during the 18th century, in a proportion of somewhat more than two to one; and in the 17th century in a proportion of at least four to one. In the year 1617, as appears by a survey of the manor then taken, there were only 46 houses in the place; in 1791 there were nearly 230; according to the returns made to Parliament under the Population Act in 1801, there were then 250 inhabited, and 12 uninhabited houses in this parish; in 1811 there were 276 houses. In 1831 we find:—

Houses inhabited.	Number of Families.	Houses Building.	Houses not inhabited.	Number of Families employed in Agriculture.	Number of Families employed in Trade.	Number of Families not comprised in either class.	Males.	Females.	Total Number of Persons.
284	346	1	—	100	159	87	891	1,023	1,914
In 1841	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,245*	1,386	2,631
435	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
In 1851	536	15	7	—	—	—	1,284	1,409	2,693
495	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
In 1861	—	19	32	—	—	—	2,122	2,522	4,644
771	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

\* 1,239 in houses, 6 in barns, 1 in a cave.

Since 1861 the population has increased in a greater proportion than during any preceding years. The number of houses must now be more than 900, and the population at least 6,000.

In the survey of the manor dated 1612, the parish was stated to contain 1,648 acres of cultivated land. The whole parish now contains about 3,700 acres.

## APPENDIX.

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(I.)

### PECULIARS.

AS early as the time of Lanfranc, 1070-1089, we find a claim made by the Archbishops for the right of *peculiars*, or episcopal authority over the inhabitants of their different estates, in whatever diocese they might be situated. "Wolfstan bore testimony that this had been the custom in our church during the Anglo-Saxon period; and the peculiars existed down to our own age, when they have been abolished by a late Act of Parliament. There were many such in the diocese of Chichester; the secular duties devolving upon the Primates of all England having frequently called them to the Sussex coast."\*

A letter from Lanfranc to Stigand, Bishop of Chichester, who had probably encroached on the Archbishop's rights, may be quoted in confirmation:—

"The clergy on my estates in your diocese have complained to me that, on certain occasions, they have been mulcted by your archdeacons, and that some of my tenants have paid the fine which has been imposed on them. Your fraternity ought to remember that, contrary to the custom of my predecessors and yours, I made to you certain concessions, and gave directions that they might attend your synods to receive religious instruction and advice, though not to discuss or debate. Should any, however, be guilty of any crime, we especially provided that punishment should be delayed until we had ourselves examined the case, that we might determine whether to pardon the offender or to punish him.

"We lay our commands upon you, therefore, that restitution be made at once, and that you warn your officials that they presume

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\* Hook, *Archbishops*, II. 156.

not so far hereafter, and that they take care a good feeling be preserved.

"We expressly enjoin those of our presbyters who are located beyond the boundaries of Kent, never more to attend any synod, whether held by you or any other bishop, and not to hold themselves responsible to you or to your officials for any crimes they may commit. For we, when we visit our estates, are bound in the exercise of our pastoral authority, to make inquiry with respect to their character, both moral and intellectual.

"The chrism only they may receive of you, and what fees have been customary for the same they may pay. For while we are determined to preserve unimpaired those rights which have been handed down to us from our predecessors, we do not wish, God forbid, to withhold from others what is their due."\*

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(II.)

DOMESDAY BOOK.

THE following note gleaned for the most part from the valuable Introduction of Sir H. Ellis to Domesday Book, as well as from the Introduction to the History of Dorset by Hutchins, may tend to throw some light on this interesting document. Other names by which it appears to have been known were *Rotulus Wintoniæ*, *Scriptura Thesauri Regis*, *Liber de Wintonia*, and *Liber Regis*. Sir Henry Spelman adds, *Liber Judiciarius*, *Censualis Angliæ*, *Angliæ Notitia et Lustratio*, and *Rotulus Regis*.

By way of derivation, Stow, in his *Annals*, p. 118, fol., London, 1631 tells us :—

"The booke of Bermondsey saith this Booke was laid up in the *King's Treasure* (which was in the church of Winchester or Westminster) in a place called *Domus Dei*, or God's house, and so the name of the booke, therefore called *Domus Dei*, and since, shortly Domesday."

The author of the *Dialogus de Scaccario* gives the following explanations of the name :—

"Hic liber ab indigenis Domesdei nuncupatur, id est, Dei Judicii, per metaphoram ; sicut enim destructi et terribilis examinis illius

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\* Lanf. Opp. i. 50.

novissimi sententia nulla tergiversationis arte valet eludi ; sic, cum orta fuerit in regno contentio de his rebus quæ illic annotantur cum ventum fuerit ad librum, sententia ejus infatuari non potest, vel impune declarari. Ob hoc nos eundem *Librum Judiciorum* nominavimus ; non quod ab eo sicut a prædicto iudicio non licet ulla ratione discedere.”\*

So Rudborne, *Anglia Sacra*, tom. i. p. 257 :—“Vocatur Domesday, et vocatur sic quia nulli parcit, sicut nec magnus dies iudicii.”

The exact time when the Conqueror undertook the survey is differently stated by historians.

The Red Book of the Exchequer seems to have been variously quoted, as fixing the time of entrance upon it in 1080 ; it being merely stated in the Record (in which the original of the *Dialogus de Scaccario* is found) that the work was undertaken at a time subsequent to that of the reduction of the island to William’s authority. From the memorial of the completion of this survey, at the end of the 2nd vol., it is evident that it was finished in 1086.

Matthew Paris, Robert of Gloucester, the *Annals of Waverley*, and the *Chronicles of Bermondsey*, give the year 1083 as the date of the record. Henry of Huntingdon places it in 1084 ; the *Saxon Chronicle* in 1085 ; Bromton, Florence of Worcester, the *Chronicle of Mailros*, Roger Hoveden, Wikes, and Hemingford in 1086 ; and the *Ypodigma Neustria* and Diceto in 1087.

Canute’s invasion, MLXXV. was “Rodbeardi Comitis Flandrensis auxilio, propterea quod Canutus haberet (uxorem) Rodbeardi filiam.”—*Saxon Chronicle*.

Hutchins says it is derived from *Dom*, i.e. *census æstimatio*, and *Boc*, book, quasi *Liber Iudicii*,—the register from which sentence and judgment might be given as to the tenure of estates. The addition of *dey* or *day* does not augment, but only confirms the sense, signifying not only the measure of time, but the administration of justice. To its authority even the Conqueror submitted in cases wherein he was concerned. If land is found under the title of *Terra Regis*, it is, or ought to be, judged ancient demesne ; and on the other hand, if it is set down under the name of a private lord or subject, it is determined not to have been the king’s.

Hence it is called *Angliæ Notitia et Lustratio*, *Rotulus Regis*, the Great Roll, the Session Book, the Tax Book, the Cessing Book, the Survey, and the Great Terrier of England, and was the great

\* Madox, *Hist. Exchequer*, ed. 4to. vol. II. 398.

index to distinguish the king's demesne from his escheat and other lands, and the lands of other men.

Something of this kind had been done before by Alfred, about 893, who divided England into counties, hundreds, and tythings. Previous to this he took a survey of all the manors and hides in his dominions, which served as a *Notitia*, and was entered in a book, called the *Roll of Winton*, from its being lodged in the archives of that place, the residence of the West-Saxon kings. This survey of Alfred seems to have been used by succeeding princes, especially when Danegeld was imposed by Edward the Confessor, whose survey is often referred to in Domesday Book. It was perhaps the model of the Conqueror's.

The extracting and classing the substance of the returns under the general heads of *Terra Regis*, &c., was a subsequent work, collected after the original *Rotuli* were returned into the Exchequer. After Domesday Book was completed, they were probably thrown by or destroyed; but some copies of them might be taken. Sir Henry Spelman was of opinion that these inquisitions, or, as he calls them, "*Comitatum Enarrationes*," were all lost. In the Cottonian Library is a MS. in vellum, bound up with the *Liber Cliensis*, marked Tiberius A. vi. 4, which contains a copy of the inquisition of the juries for most of the hundreds of Cambridgeshire, in a fair ancient character, of about temp. Henry II. The Exeter MS. of Domesday is thought to be one of these returns.

Some of the principal measures in this survey may be briefly explained.

1. *The Hide*.—The hide of the Saxons, and the carucate of the Normans signify the same, and are what we call a *plough-land*, as much arable as could be tilled and managed by one plough and the beasts belonging thereto in a year, having meadow, pasture, and houses for the householders and cattle belonging to it. This is the great measure of Domesday Book in most counties. The hide is esteemed to contain 100 acres, sometimes 120; but both certainly differing according to the lightness and stiffness of the soil, of which a plough might dispatch more or less. Some hides even consisted of 240 acres. Selden, in his note upon Hengham, proves that the hide consisted of that number till 9 Ric. I., when in the 5s. aid it was fixed at 100 acres, perhaps the common hundred, which was 120 acres. Agarde thinks that the carucate, when mentioned alone, was equal to the hide, but when mentioned with the hide, it contained only 60 acres. The hide was the measure of land in the

Confessor's time ; the carucate, that to which it was reduced by the Conqueror's new standard.

2. *A Virgate*.—Four of these made a hide. The Chronicle of Battle Abbey reckons eight to one hide, and four virgates to one *wista*.

3. *A Bovate or Osgang*.—Eight of these commonly went to the hide or carucate. Some contained 12, 16, 18, or 20 acres, more or less, in different counties.

4. *An acre* was not equal, for the same reason that a virgate and bovat were unequal. An acre was 40 perches in length and four in breadth, or if but 20 perches in length, then eight in breadth ; 16, 18, 20, or more feet, went to the perch.

### (III.)

#### WARRANT OF CHARLES I. TO REVIVE THE OLD ENGLISH MARCH, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF LORD WIMBLEDON.

"A WARRANT OF CHARLES I., directing the revival of the old English March, as it is still in use with foot." A MS. found by a late Earl of Huntingdon in an old chest ; and as in one corner of the parchment were the arms of his lordship's predecessor, living in the time of Charles I., the order was probably sent to all lords-lieutenants of counties.

(Signed) CHARLES REX.

"Whereas the ancient custome of nations hath ever bene to use one certaine and constant forme of march in the warres, whereby to be distinguished one from another. And the marche of this our English nation, so famous in all the honourable atchievements and glorious warres of this our kingdome in forraigne parts, (being, by the approbation of strangers themselves, confessed and acknowledged the best of marches) was, through the negligence and carelessness of drummers, and by long discontinuance so altered and changed from the ancient gravitie and majestie thereof, as it was in danger utterly to have been lost and forgotten, it pleased our late deare brother Prince Henry to revive and rectifie the same, by ordaining an establishment of one certaine measure, which was beaten in his presence at Greenwich, Anno 1610. The conformation whereof, Wee are graciously pleased, *at the instance*

*and humble sute of our right trusty and right well beloved cousin and counsellor Edward Viscount Wimbleton, to set down and ordaine the present establishment hereunder expressed. Willing and commanding all drummers within our kingdome of England & principalitie of Wales, exactly & precisely to observe the same, as well in this our kingdome as abroad in the service of any forraigne prince or state, without any addicion or alteration whatsoever. To the end that so ancient, famous, & commendable a custome may be preserved as a patterne and precedent to all posteritie.*

*"Given at our Palace of Westminster, the seventh day of February, in the seventh year of our religion of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland."*

## (IV.)

## INVENTORY OF FURNITURE AND PICTURES BELONGING TO CHARLES I. AT WIMBLEDON.

THE following inventory of furniture and pictures belonging to Charles I. whilst at Wimbleton, is copied from the general inventory taken at the Royal palaces, by order of the Commissioners. The prices affixed are those at which each lot was valued; the prices at which they were actually sold being generally the same, sometimes more, seldom less. The original MS. gives the names of the purchaser of each lot, the date of purchase, and the sum paid. These are necessarily omitted for want of space. Some of the most valuable articles, as for instance the handsome bed (lot 2) valued at £500, fell to the custody of the Lord Protector, who seems to have enjoyed the happy privilege of receiving without paying.

"AN INVENTORY OF GOODS of Wimbleton, in the custody of Mr. Henry Brown, Wardrobe Keeper of Somerset House, vewed and appraised the 7<sup>th</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup>. 1649 :—

	£.	s.	d.
Eight peices of New Tapestry Hangins with flower potts and pillars, in all containing 225 ells ...	90	0	0
One crimson velvett bed, the furniture lined with cloth of Gold and Silver, with all things there- unto belonging, valued ... ..	500	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
A carpit of Turque work wrought with Roses and flowers, one Couch, 4 back Chaires, and six stooles suitable, and a painted Table, the frame gilt	70	0	0
Three necessary Stooles, with pewter panns ... ..	0	16	0
Nine frames and nineteen Stooles of Wainscott carved and gilt upon the edges ... ..	13	2	0
Three fustain Cushions, and two Downe long boldsters	11	0	0
Four Pewter Stills at 9d. per lb. ... ..	5	0	0
Two Limbecks ... ..	1	10	0
A marble stone and wooden pestle ... ..	0	2	6
Three pair of brass Andirons with Fire Shovells and tongs with brass, three pair of Bellows and three pair of Creepers with brass tops ... ..	16	0	0
One pair of Creepers with brass heads ... ..	7	0	0
Fifteen Spitts ... ..	2	10	0
One pair of Rack Irons ... ..	1	0	0
One great Glass ... ..	30	0	0
Two French Tables ... ..	0	12	0
One great trunk bound with iron ... ..	1	0	0
One frame for a picture, and two damasque curtains ...	1	10	0
Twelve tapestry Curtains for Pictures, curtains about 32 ells, with Tenn Curtaine Rodds ... ..	4	10	0
Two Kitchen slyces ... ..	0	5	0
Two frying panns ... ..	0	5	0
One Iron Dripping Pann ... ..	0	8	0
Two Sumpter Trunks with Locks and Keys ... ..	2	0	0
Four Custard panns ... ..	0	10	0
One brass Culender ... ..	0	5	0
Three brass Ladles ... ..	0	4	0
One brass Skymer ... ..	0	2	0
One brass Scoupe ... ..	0	4	0
Four brass Stew panns ... ..	1	10	0
Three pair of Wafer Irons ... ..	0	15	0
One Iron pann, with a brass cover ... ..	0	5	0
Two pestles, two Rowling pins, and two platters of wood	0	1	6

## PICTURES.

3 Landskipps ... ..	1	10	0
Six Ennamelled pieces, 3 of them ovall ... ..	12	0	0



	£.	s.	d.
Two little Sea pieces of Porcelles in ovall ... ..	2	0	0
A little green Landskype 6 inches long ... ..	2	0	0
A little piece of Marie and the Child 3 inches square	1	10	0
Marie with flowers (six inches longg) ... ..	0	10	0
King of France 6 inches long, on marble ... ..	0	10	0
A Child carrying a Cross ... ..	0	10	0
Spanish Grapes (round) ... ..	2	10	0
Two pieces of Green landskype 9 inches long ... ..	3	0	0
A Saint in Marble, 8 Inches Broad, 6 inches Deepe ... ..	0	10	0
Marie in the Clouds, in marble ... ..	0	10	0
Christ on the Cross, water colours ... ..	1	0	0
King of France, with Mary and y <sup>e</sup> Child ... ..	0	10	0
Christ and a Garland upon marble ... ..	0	10	0
Winter ... ..	2	10	0
Drawing with a pen on parchment ... ..	0	2	6
A Hermit on marble ... ..	0	10	0
Christ praying in y <sup>e</sup> Garden ... ..	0	10	0
Naturall Stone, a piece.... ... ..	0	10	0
Christ, Mary, & Joseph on marble ... ..	1	0	0
A lady praying with a dove above her Hart ... ..	2	10	0
A flower pott ... ..	3	0	0
Souldiers drinking ... ..	10	0	0
Mary & Child, Joseph lying asleep ... ..	6	0	0
A Dishe of Aprecocks ... ..	0	12	0
Francis the first, King of France, done by Girrett ... ..	10	0	0
Mary and Joseph with Christ in the middle ... ..	1	0	0
Nativity of Christ done by Gilio Romano ... ..	10	0	0
Joseph, Mary and Child, with Two Angels ... ..	6	0	0
A Landskype with a Bridge in it, and the finding of Moses ... ..	1	0	0
A Man in Armour to the knees about 6 inches long, done by Corriogo ... ..	5	0	0
A Landskype of Jonas cast on the shore ... ..	0	12	0
Two sea pieces ... ..	2	0	0
A Prospective with a red bedd in it ... ..	1	0	0
Four little round Landskypes, each one having a figure in it, done by Brug ... ..	10	0	0
Two round Landskypes in square frames ... ..	4	0	0
A Drawing with a pen on parchment covered with a glass ... ..	2	10	0

	£.	s.	d.
A piece with two playing at chesse, by Angelo	35	0	0
Corovley ... ..			
A picture with a black cap on his head ... ..	2	10	0
A piece with many figures, done by Franckin ... ..	10	0	0
A Landskype ... ..	6	0	0

Inv. 119. 130.

Again, in another part of the Catalogue, beginning with Lot 585, we have more pictures from Wimbledon.

	£.	s.	d.
Psyca done by Vandyke ... ..	110	0	0
Mary, Elizabeth, and Child, by Shivona ... ..	100	0	0
Ecchoe, by one of the Carratts ... ..	40	0	0
A Monke upon a Handkercheife ... ..	2	0	0
A Baskett of Grapes and Birds... ..	3	10	0
Fruit with Radishes, by Millon ... ..	5	0	0
A Madonna and Child in a Garland ... ..	2	10	0
Mary, a Child and S <sup>t</sup> . John ... ..	6	0	0
A piece of Needlework of a Shipp at Sea ... ..	4	0	0
Another of the same by a Bridge ... ..	5	0	0
Apricocks and Grapes ... ..	10	0	0
A Bottle of Wine on a Table ... ..	6	0	0
Cupid whipping a Satyre ... ..	8	0	0
Mary with a Dead Christ in her lapp, by Corregio	45	0	0
Mary in the Clouds, with Nunns and Fryarrs ... ..	6	0	0
Mary a kissing of Christ ... ..	1	0	0
S <sup>t</sup> . Francis ... ..	20	0	0
Another S <sup>t</sup> . Francis, by Gentlisco ... ..	30	0	0
The Nativity of Christ, from Bassano ... ..	35	0	0
The Dove and the Storke ... ..	20	0	0
Peter and John, a Coppie after Guido, the frame also	7	0	0
Mary, the Child, Angells, and 2 Doves ... ..	30	0	0
A King of France ... ..	6	0	0
Four Landshapes that came from Oatlands ... ..	26	0	0

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Two ovall Tables and an Iron bolt ... ..	0	2	6
Five brass potts which came from M <sup>r</sup> . Marrs ... ..	5	0	0
A Blunderbuss of Brass ... ..	0	10	0
A Picture Frame ... ..	0	2	6

Bibl. Harl. 4898.

(V.)

## DEED OF SALE TO ADAM BAYNES.

The following are the particulars of the sale to Adam Baynes, Esq., April 11th, 1650, copied from the original deed in folio at the office of the Woods and Forests :—

“This particular is rated in the fee simple for the said Adam Baynes at 18 years purchase for the present yearly value of the manor of Wimbledon with the rights, members, and appurtenances in the county of Surrey. And all that capital messuage, or Manor House with the appurtenances commonly called *Wimbledon Hall*, situate, lying, and being in the Parish of Wimbledon in the county of Surrey. And the lands, tenements, and hereditaments, parcell of the said manor, together with a parcell of impaled ground commonly called *Wimbledon Park*, lying and being in the Parish of Wimbledon aforesaid. A farm house called *Harphams Farm*, lying within the pale of the said park on the south-west corner thereof, and a close of meadow ground in Wimbledon aforesaid, commonly called *Great Bittins*—All in the present possession of the state being £386. 19s. 8d. And all the gross sum of £2840. 7s. 11d. for the materials of the manor house aforesaid ; and all the gross sum of £2248. 7s. 5d. for ends, Roots of Flowers, and the materials of the houses, walks, in and about the gardens, court, and yards belonging to the said manor house ; £4694. 4s. 4d. for the woods and Timber upon the Premises ;—£149 for the materials of two *Dutch barns* and *Wardens House*, and the Barn standing in the Brewers Close ;—£10 for Deer in the Park ;—deducting by way of reprise for the sum of £4 per annum due to the Reeve by custom, and for the sum of 22 shillings per annum, issuing out of the manor aforesaid to the lord of the manor of Battersea for the time being, 18 years value, which is £91. 16s. According to which rates and values, the purchase-money payable and to be paid for the premises amounts to the sum of £16,825. 17s. 8d.”—One full moiety to be paid or defaulted within 8 weeks now next ensuing. And the other moiety to be paid or defaulted within six months after the first payment. For the payment of the latter moiety security to be given to Trustees by a lease for 90 years of the premises.

Act of Parliament.

(Signed) JOHN WHEATLEY, Deputy Regist.

“Out of which contract, nevertheless, all messuages, cottages, and lands in possession or reversion, parcel of the said manor aforesaid, not particularly mentioned in the aforesaid particular (other than customary lands or Tenements holden by Copy of Court Rolls, commons and ground used for common ways and Waste grounds), and also all Improvements, Parsonages, appropriated, Advowsons, Right of Patronage or Presentation unto any Parsonage, or Vicarage, or Church Donative or Presentative; And all other things saved and excepted, as not to be sold by any of the Acts of Parliament aforesaid are excepted.”

J. WHEATLEY, Dep. Reg.

Attested:—

WILLIAM ROBERTS.

NEMPRIÈRE.

DANIEL SEARLE.

JAMES STOCALL.

EDWARD CRESSETT.

The following extract from the Parliamentary Survey, taken in 1649, will explain some of the rights alluded to above:—

	£.	s.	d.
“Rents of Assize or Customary Quit-rents due from Copyholders, tenants in the township of Wymble- don, payable by fines, Lady-day and Michaelmas	4	19	8
Ditto, Putney ... ..	10	9	11
Ditto, Mortlake ... ..	11	11	9
Ditto, Roehampton... ..	15	4	4
Ditto, Barnes ... ..	1	5	6
The benefit arising to the Lord of the Manor by driving the Moors and Commons within the said Boundaries thereof at certain times of the year, according to the custom of the said manor worth <i>communibus annis</i> ... ..	1	10	0
Common fine, or head-silver,—Wymbeldon, 8s. 4d.; Putney, 5s. 10d.; Roehampton, 2s. 6d.; Mortlake, 8s. 4d.; Barnes, 5s ... ..	1	10	0
Other royalties, wafes, strays, hunting, fowling, other profits, and payments within the manor ... ..	40	0	0
	£86	11	2

“Memorandum, that belonging to the said Manor of Wymbledon a common or more grounds lying in Wymbledon aforesaid, called

*Wymbledon Common*, and containing by estimation three hundred acres of land more or less.

"One other common or more grounds lying in the Township of Putney, and called *Putney Common*, and containing by estimation four hundred acres of land more or less.

"One other common or more grounds lying in the Township of Mortlack, called *Little Heath*, containing by estimation thirty acres of land more or less.

"One other common or more grounds lying in the Township of Mortlack aforesaid, called *The Payne*, containing twelve acres of land more or less.

"The four commons or moors before mentioned cannot be inclosed by the Lord of the said Manor without the consent of the Copyholders of the said Manor, and therefore they are of no further benefit to the Lord of the said Manor than, as before mentioned, in the particular of driving\* the same."

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(VI.)

TESTA DE NEVILL

*Testa de Nevill*, or *Liber Fœdorum*, *Nomina Villarum*, *Serjeantries*, and *Knights' Fees*, in several counties, were taken by inquisition, temp. Henry III. and Edward I.

From what circumstance they have obtained the name of *Testa de Nevill* is not ascertained; there are, however, two persons, to either of whom they may be assignable; viz., Ralph de Nevill, an accountant in the Exchequer, and collector of aids, in the reign of Henry III., whose name occurs in the book, p. 39; or Jollan de Nevill, a justice itinerant of the same reign, who, as Dugdale in his *Baronage*, vol. i. 288, supposes, may have been the author.

The entries which are specifically entitled "*Testa de Nevill*" are evidently quotations, and form comparatively a very small part of the whole; they have in all probability been copied from a roll bearing that name, a part of which is still extant in the Chapter-house of Westminster, consisting of five small membranes, containing ten counties. The Roll appears to be of the age of Edward I., and agrees verbatim with the entries in the Books.

*Introduction to Testa de Nevill*, published in 1807.

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\* For the right of "*Driving*," see *Manwood on the Forest Laws*, chap. xv. fol. LXXXV; also 4 *Inst.* fol. 309.

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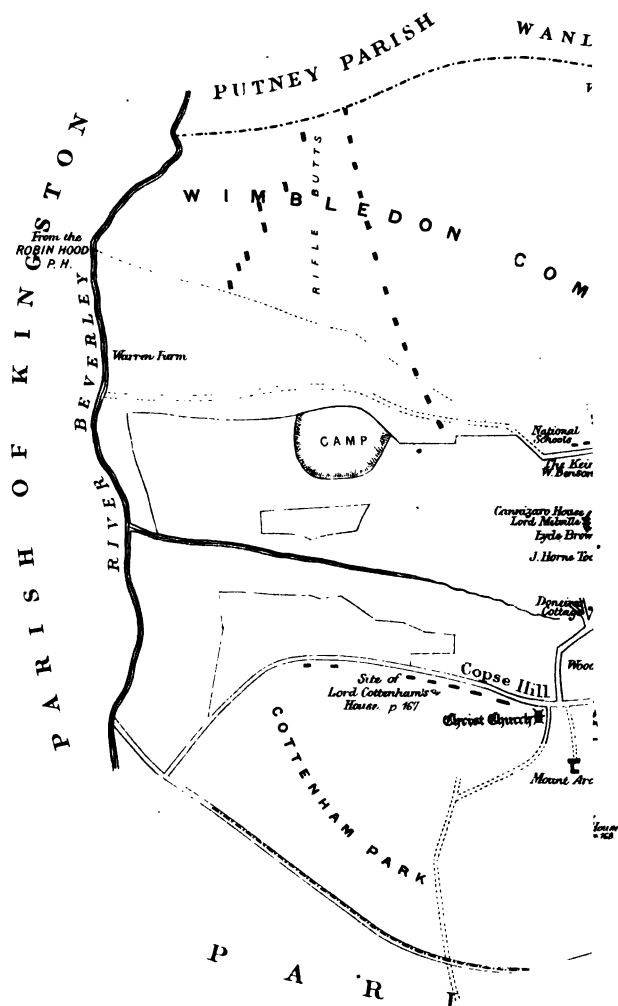


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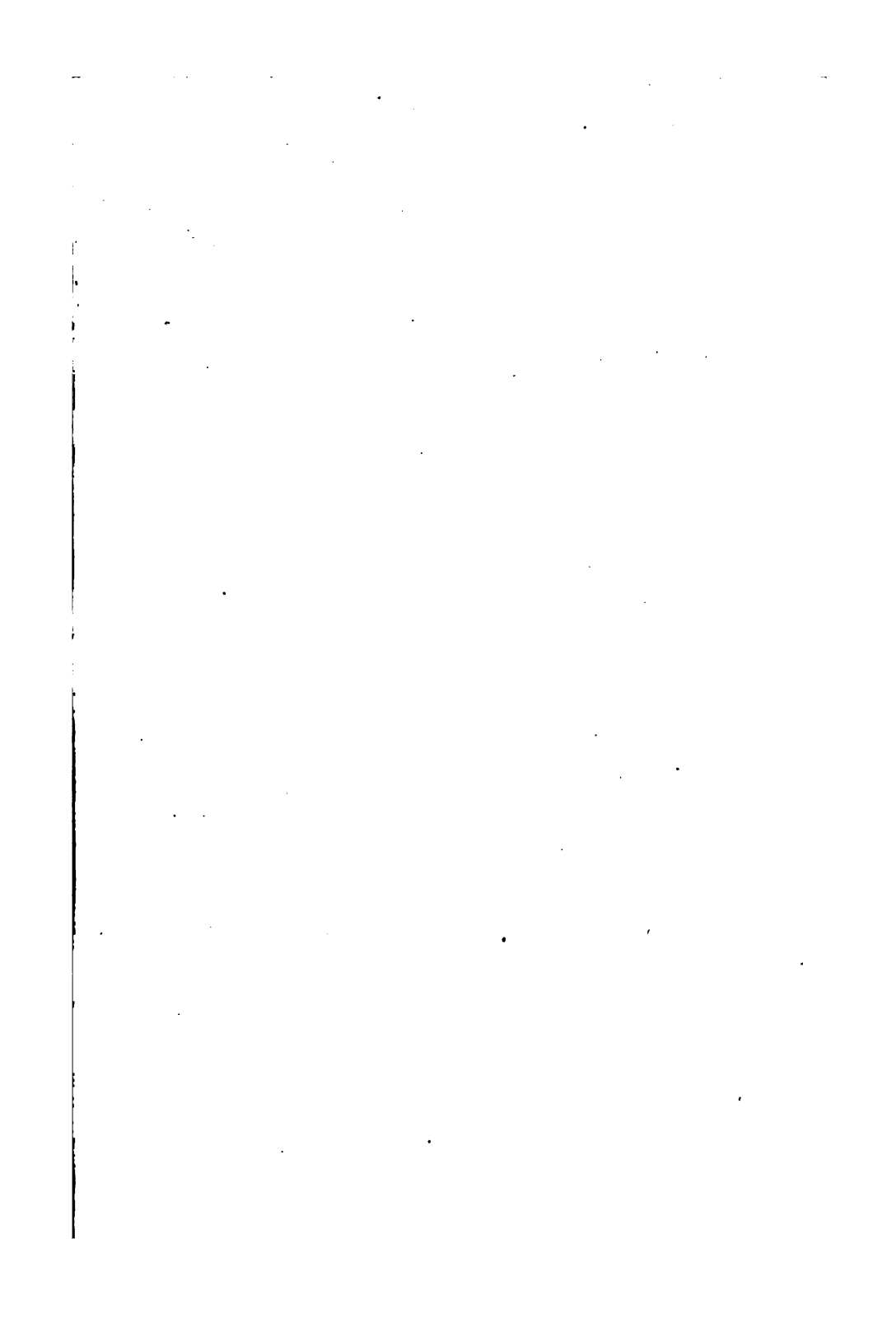
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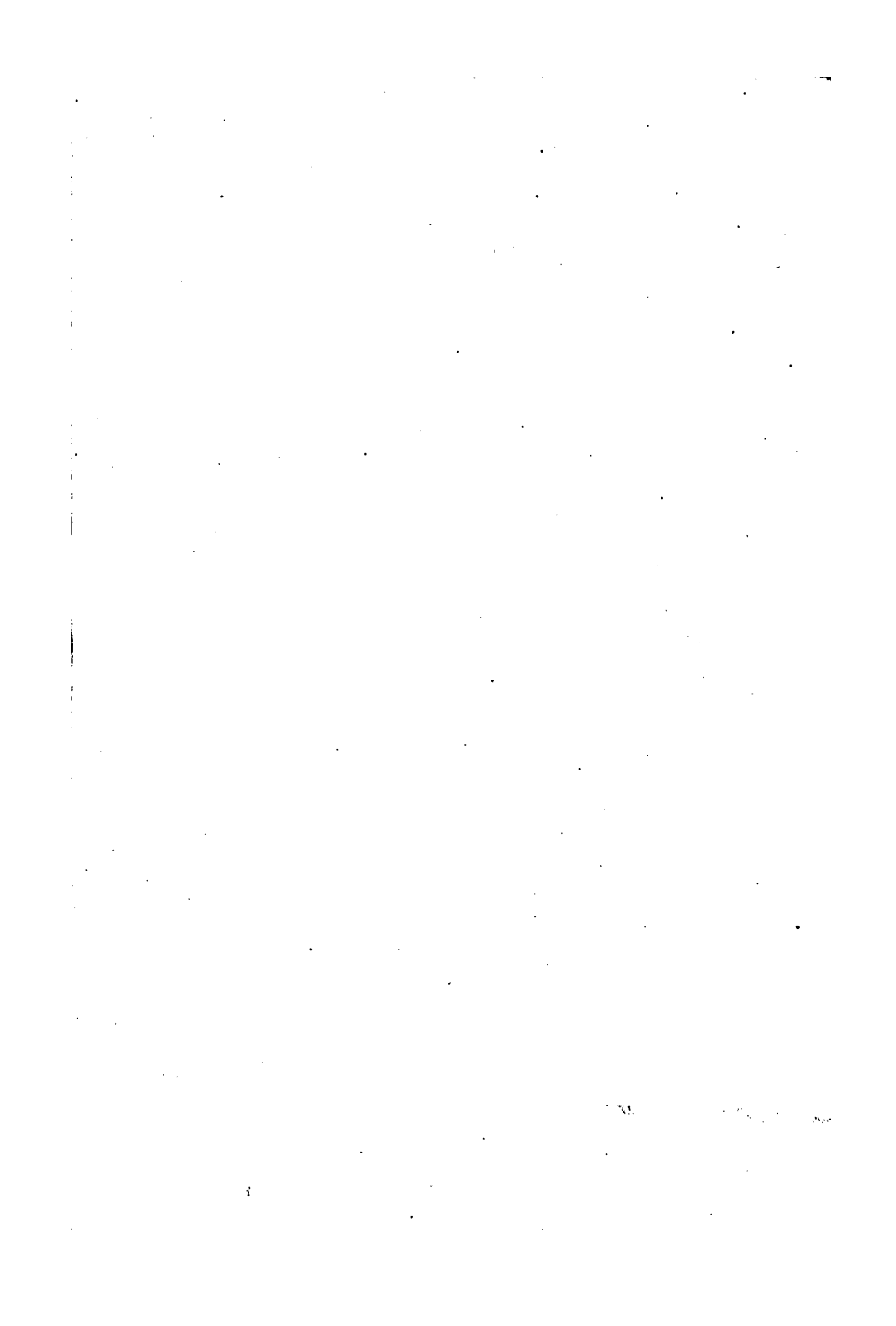
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